Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 115 | WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Torres turns down offer to be attorney general. PAGE 2

Pacific mayors begin arriving today for conference. PAGE 6

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI Labor Department's performance in terms of placing unemployed workers in jobs?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

## PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 11, 2009

**Phase 1:** Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

**Phase 2:** An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

**Phase 3:** An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

**Phase 4:** Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

**Phase 5:** A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

**Phase 6:** The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

*Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization*

# Restriction on vessel movements in NMI waters still in effect

**BY MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday confirmed that the order prohibiting nighttime operations within 12 nautical miles of CNMI waters remains in effect.

The U.S. Coast Guard issued the order in August 2008.

Saipan port manager Mary-Ann Q. Lizama said yesterday this means that no vessels can enter CNMI waters before sunrise and exit after sundown within 12 nautical miles.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho clarified yesterday

*See RESTRICTION on Page 4*

# Major economic indicators down

## Govt spending exceeds revenue by $5 million

**By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Major economic indicators plummeted during the first three months of the year compared to the same quarter last year, including a $44.4 million decline in garment export, a $5.14 million drop in business gross revenues, a $4.8 million drop in remittances, and a 3-percent drop in tourist arrivals.

**ON THE NET**
www.commerce.gov.mp/new

*See MAJOR on Page 4*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
This "For Rent" sign is a forlorn sight against the backdrop of empty commercial stalls. On Saipan, many new and old commercial buildings are now empty and the chances of finding new tenants are slim, as a number of businesses are closing.

# CHC loses another doctor

**By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

The chief medical officer of the Commonwealth Health Center resigned early this week, claiming personal reasons for leaving.

Dr. Divya Sharma said she submitted her letter of resignation last Monday, May 11, to the office of Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez.

Sharma said that Pedro T. Untalan, the Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration, is already aware of her impending departure.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from both Villagomez and Untalan yesterday but they have yet to respond to the e-mail request.

Sharma said it's about time

*See CHC on Page 4*

Dr. Divya Sharma treats a patient on Saipan. DHHS

# Alien workers want Sablan to speak for them at US hearing

**By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

Various alien worker groups in the CNMI signed a manifest this week, choosing Rep. Tina Sablan to represent them at the oversight hearing in the U.S. Congress.

Human rights activist Wendy Doromal said she will also represent guest workers.

The worker groups stressed there is no dispute as to who should represent them in the

*See ALIEN on Page 4*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**WHERE ARE THE STREET SIGNS?** HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man walks near downed street signs on Middle Road yesterday afternoon. A lot of Saipan's street signs are either missing or have fallen to the ground, but the government has yet to either replace or fix them to make them usable to motorists and pedestrians.

# Local

# Torres turns down offer to be attorney general

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has offered lawyer Victorino Torres of Torres Brothers LLC to be the next attorney general but he declined, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Torres is the second person approached by the governor in recent weeks to succeed former Attorney General Matthew Gregory who resigned in September 2008.

Fitial earlier said he asked Teresa Kim, the current counsel to the lieutenant governor, to be the attorney general but she declined.

When asked for comment, press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. yesterday confirmed that Torres was considered for the position but he did not accept the offer.

"It's very difficult to find a capable, competent attorney who is willing to take the position and leave private practice. But we are continuing the search. It's not an easy task," he said.

The Legislature has been at odds with the Fitial administration for not appointing an attorney general since the resignation of Gregory in September.

Gregory Baka has been acting attorney general since Sept. 28. He succeeded to the position after Matthew Gregory's resignation.

During a House session yesterday morning, House members deferred action on Senate Bill 16-51, or the Attorney General Confirmation Act of 2009, clarifying the law that requires Senate confirmation of an AG nominee.

Sen. Pete P. Reyes, author of S.B. 16-51, was at the House chamber for the deliberation on the bill, but action was deferred until the next session.

During the session, Rep. Tina Sablan asked fellow members whether they heard of any new attorney general nominee, to which some members said "no."

Under S.B. 16-51, if the governor or his designee does not submit the individual who has been appointed or is otherwise serving in an acting capacity or who has assumed the title of attorney general, acting AG, or interim AG within 30 days, the individual cannot serve in those positions for two years.

If an individual is nominated, but the Senate does not confirm the person within 90 days from the temporary appointed or assumed position date, the position will become vacant and the person nominated can't be renominated during the tenure of the appointing administration. If an individual holds the position of AG, acting AG or interim AG after 90 days without confirmation, they will be breaking the law. Any contracts, purchase orders, or timesheets signed after the 90-day period will be null and void.

# Alleged sponsorship scheme is uncovered

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's Investigation Unit has busted a businessman and an alien worker who were allegedly engaged in a sponsorship scheme.

Immigration investigator Erwin Flores alleged that Manny M. Torres, owner of S&Y Internet Game, concocted a scheme to employ Minglong Li through a sponsorship scheme so that Li would be able to remain in the CNMI with a valid entry permit.

Torres and Li were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing on charges of document fraud, conspiracy to commit document fraud, attempt to commit unlawful employment of aliens, conspiracy to commit unlawful employment of aliens, and inducement by fraudulent misrepresentation.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $200 cash bail for the temporary release of Torres.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday, the bail hearing for Li had yet to begin.

Flores said he executed an arrest warrant for Li on May 1 for overstaying in the CNMI without authorization.

Flores said that during his investigation, he discovered that Torres and Li were engaged in a sponsorship scheme.

During his interview with Li, Flores said the alien worker alleged that he met Torres at a Koblerville store in December 2008.

Torres allegedly promised Li to employ him as a cashier at his S&Y Internet Game in exchange for $2,000 so he would acquire an immigration status.

On Dec. 11, 2008, Li allegedly paid Torres $875 as processing fee to complete the sponsorship scheme.

Li said Torres told him on many occasions that he had not received any information from Labor about a hearing relating to his request to transfer to S&Y Internet Game.

Flores said that during his interview with Torres, the businessman admitted there was no intent for Li to perform any work for his company.

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*BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

*MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

# BOE approves revision of PSS standards, benchmarks

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has approved revisions to the Public School System's standards and benchmarks to effectively measure the performance of students by refining the performance indicators used in weighing children's learning.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the revision would allow for more in-depth knowledge and comprehensive understanding of the rubrics, with emphasis on content areas—Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Language Arts.

These revisions, according to Sablan, are aligned with the school curriculum from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

She said the revisions were reviewed by teachers, administrators, program managers, and PSS staff.

"The refinements or revisions are based on how our students are expected to perform in terms of content knowledge," Sablan said.

She said PSS has been continuously using the same standards and benchmarks since the 1990s.

"We made it more comprehensive in terms of the expectations of the board, and for our students—when they graduate—to be able to compete. This is also an effective measure for them to get ready for college," Sablan said.

She said the refinements also cover auxiliary programs such as vocational, fine arts, and physical education but the emphasis and focus were on the four main content areas of English, Math, Science, and Language Arts.

Sablan pointed out the "progressing" data of students based on the standards and benchmarks.

"Every curriculum is actually implemented to enrich students' knowledge and skills," she said.

Academic competitions such as the National Forensic and Junior Forensic Leagues, Math Court, and the Chamorro/Carolinian Academic Bowl are all designed in accordance with school benchmarks and standards, she added.

Board vice chair Herman T. Guerrero said after a recent board meeting that revisions are necessary to see continuous progress in student learning.

"In order for PSS to meet and exceed the goals it sets, some adjustments and refinements in the rubrics are needed. …The board welcomes every move to develop further the learning of our students in public schools," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune.*

The PSS wants to have all its students entering Grade 4 to be reading at grade level by 2008; that 80 percent of students are reading at or above grade level by the end of SY 2008-2009; and all students are scoring at the 50 percentile or higher on average on the Stanford Achievement Test by 2010; as well as 90 percent of students are scoring at the proficient level or above on the PSS standards-based assessment by 2014.

# Sablan, parties directed to prepare for OGA dialogue

Rep. Tina Sablan and the other parties connected to her Open Government Act lawsuit were ordered to appear in court tomorrow, Thursday, to discuss the matter.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman told Sablan and the lawyer for Gov. Benigno F. Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to be prepared to discuss the enumerated items listed in the "privilege log" and to what extent the OGA restricts the release of those documents.

At the April 9, 2009, hearing on Sablan's request for the release of certain documents, assistant attorney general Brad Huesman, the lawyer for Fitial and Inos, objected to producing three documents.

The three documents are the letter engaging the services of a Washington D.C. law firm for the federalization lawsuit, billing documents and statements sent to the CNMI relating to the 903 litigation (federalization lawsuit), and payments made by the CNMI to attorneys representing the 903 litigation.

On April 14, Wiseman ordered Fitial and Inos to produce within seven days all of Sablan's requested documents, except the three that Huesman refused to hand over.

The judge also ordered Fitial and Inos to file a privilege log with the court within 10 days. Huesman subsequently filed the privilege log.

Sablan sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# House passes bill putting Office of Victims Rights Office under OAG

The House of Representatives, by unanimous vote, passed a bill bringing the Office of Victims' Rights under the Office of the Attorney General.

House Bill 16-242, introduced by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, said the Office of Victims' Rights was conceived in 1996 to be placed within the OAG rather than the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

The office was initially established to assist and support victims of domestic violence. Through the years, the Office of Victims' Rights has served victims of all crimes.

"In order to provide continuous and consistent victim advocacy services and to avoid any funding difficulties, the Office of Victims' Rights should legally exist within the Office of the Attorney General where it has existed as a matter of practice since its establishment," H.B. 16-242 said.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

The House also passed yesterday House Bill 16-240, amending the Alcoholic Beverage Tobacco Control Act to allow alcoholic beverage sampling with lesser restrictions.

H.B. 16-240, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres, said alcoholic beverage sampling activities or events may be conducted at any on-sale or off-sale licensed establishment by the sampling licensee without any further restricting regulations or approval by the Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

**Vacancy Announcement**

Connecting Families Inc., private non-profit organization is looking for a committed and self-motivated individual to fill the fulltime position of MONITOR for the Family Visitation Center.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENT:**
Bachelor's of Science in any field related to Social Services, Criminal Justice, Sociology, or other, and at least two years experience and/or equivalent.

Individual must be available to work nights and weekends. Individual must have an excellent written and verbal communication and inter-personal skills. Experience with working with children and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking is also recommended.

Interested applicants must submit their resume with a cover letter and at least one letter of recommendation on or before **Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Family Court Division,** 1st floor, Guma Justicia (Court House) in Susupe, attention Patrick V. Diaz.

Applicant must be able to attend training on May 27, 28, and 29, 2009.

For more information, please contact Neda B. Camacho, Executive Director, 322-5437 or 285-4663.

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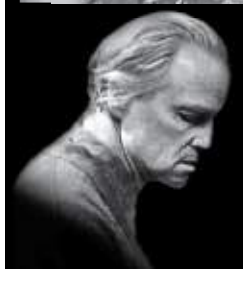

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# Man allegedly steals patient's debit cards, items

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the survivors in last month's fatal vehicular crash in Dandan was arrested Monday for allegedly breaking into a patient's room at the Commonwealth Health Center and stealing three debit cards and other items.

Calvin A. Fitial, 25, was arrested for burglary, theft, forgery, theft by deception, and theft of service.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo on Saturday imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Fitial's temporary liberty.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero stated in his report that Fitial used the stolen debit card to buy items in different establishments on Saipan.

Leon Guerrero said that on April 26, a female caller called the Department of Public Safety to report a theft incident at the Taga Market in San Vicente, KL Market in Koblerville, and TM Sablan Co. in Chalan Piao.

Officer Jonathan Decena responded and learned that a debit card was used to purchase over $350 worth of merchandise.

That same night of April 26, a female caller informed DPS that a burglary and theft incident occurred inside Room C20 at CHC in Garapan.

A responding police officer learned that three First Hawaiian Bank debit cards, a silver Sony digital camera, a personal check wallet, and driver's license were stolen from Room C20.

Leon Guerrero learned from Warlita B. Lambert that her husband's debit card was used in several locations. Thomas Gregory Lambert was admitted at CHC at the time.

Leon Guerrero said he went to KL Market where the store owner showed him footages of the surveillance camera taken on April 15.

Leon Guerrero said the footage showed Fitial using Lambert's debit card to buy two cartons of cigarettes, one shampoo, and one shaver in the total amount of $126.68.

Fitial allegedly introduced himself as Mr. Lambert to the cashier and that he's from Guam and had forgotten his identification card.

Leon Guerrero said he also proceeded to Taga Mart where he learned that on April 15 Fitial also used Lambert's debit card to buy two and a half cases of beer and 50 lbs of rice in the total amount of $149.19.

The detective said upon his visit to Kiana's Salon & Spa he was told that a man had appeared at the shop and cashed $100 using a debit card.

Leon Guerrero said he learned that Fitial also used Lambert's debit card at the Gift Shop where the cashier handed $100 cash to the suspect.

Leon Guerrero said he visited CHC'S security office where he saw surveillance camera footages that showed Fitial and a male companion entering Room C18, which is adjacent to Lambert's room.

Lambert told Leon Guerrero that he went through surgery at CHC for hernia and that on April 16 his wallet, three debit cards, a digital camera, and a wrist watch were missing from his room.

Lambert said he went outside for fresh air and when he returned, the divider in the room was slightly open.

Leon Guerrero said Fitial was within Room C18, which was adjacent to Room C20.

Fitial was one of several persons injured in a vehicular accident in Dandan, during which one passenger died.

Fitial was at CHC to visit Doming Dela Cruz, who was one of the victims in that accident and was in Room C18.

Leon Guerero said that Fitial tried again to use Lambert's debit card on May 4 at the Shell Gas Station in Koblerville.

## MAJOR

*From Page 1*

All these give credence to a recent independent economic forecast that the CNMI economy will be bleaker this year than last year, and the possibilities of reinventing the now desperate economy are increasingly slim.

Government spending also exceeded general fund revenue derived from collected taxes and fees by over $5 million in the first quarter, the latest Economic Indicator Report released by the Department of Commerce shows.

The government collected only $34.847 million between January and March, but spent $39.86 million.

Government spending and collection dropped by 9 percent and 13 percent, respectively, from a year ago.

Business gross revenue, which is the total sales of businesses in the CNMI, reached only $411.48 million in January to March, a 1.2 percent or $5.14 million decline from last year.

### Weak sales

As consumers hold on to their dollars because of a general downturn in the economy, small to large businesses report decline in sales.

"Our sales are down 10 to 20 percent in 2008 compared to 2007," Amelia Domingo, store manager of Taro Sue Store on Middle Road, yesterday said. The store sells furniture and household wares.

Domingo said their major customers—hotels and apartment owners—seldom buy new furniture these days because of a decline in hotel guests, while apartments do not see new tenants and therefore they don't need to change their dining tables, beds and sofas.

"Businesses like us now charge lower for the items we sell and still our profits are low. The economy is just not that good," she added.

On Saipan, many new and old commercial buildings are now empty and the chances of finding new tenants are slim, as a number of businesses are closing. Since April, Saipan completely lost its garment industry, as the last income from a factory was reported in March. Retail stores and other businesses near former garment factories are also now empty.

Popular businesses also were not spared from the economic slowdown during the first quarter, including the closures of Island Locator, Jollibee, Hawaii Bar & Grill, Green Flash Restaurant, Mary's Restaurant and X-Colors.

### Dismal

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. separately said the latest Commerce report continues to show the "dismal" state of the economy, which is affected by federalization, minimum wage increase, slowdown in arrivals especially from the main market of Japan, a weak Korean won, the U.S. financial meltdown and the global financial crisis.

"Federalization creates uncertainty. It is discouraging investors. They are still in a wait-and-see mode because we haven't seen yet the investor regulations and the labor regulations, only the visa waiver rules which restrict our access to the Chinese and Russian tourist market," Reyes said.

### Less money circulating

Banks' total deposits went down to $450.23 million, from $515.53 million last year during the first quarter. Total loans also plunged to $136.42 million, from $156.72 million a year ago. This brings the loan to deposit ratio to 30.3 percent, a slight decrease from 30.4 percent during the first three months of last year.

The exodus of thousands of nonresident workers due to the closure of garment factories and other businesses was reflected in remittances, which went down by $4.8 million or 23 percent—from $20.8 million to $16 million in the first quarter.

Sales of new vehicles also dropped by 32 percent between January and March, from 300 last year to only 188 this year.

Visitor arrivals reached only 107,434 during the first three months of 2009, compared to 110,690 last year, a 3-percent drop.

The economy is expected to worsen in 2009, with the Marianas Visitors Authority projecting $339 million in lost tourism revenue each year due to federalization, flight reductions and a drop in tourism arrivals.

The average hotel rate stood at $99.99, from last year's $101.10. Hotel occupancy averaged at 73.2 percent in the first quarter, a slight increase from last year's 70.6 percent.

### Zero exports

Because of low demand for goods, the CNMI's total import tonnage reached only 79,340 tons in the first quarter, from 93,460 last year. The imports include petroleum, oil, lubricants, cement, garment, food items, construction materials and beverages.

The CNMI saw a $44.4 million drop in exports because of the demise of the garment industry. From $47.54 million in garment export last year, the figure went down to $3.14 million this year. By the second quarter, the CNMI no longer had any export to speak of.

The total value of construction during the first quarter stood at only $2.33 million consisting of 33 projects, from $4.94 million last year with 57 commercial, residential and government projects.

Besides hotel occupancy, which slightly rose during the first quarter, the number of telephone lines also went up by 5.2 percent or 1,498—from 28,631 last year to 30,129 this year.

Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada said the first quarter economic indicators report depicts the "social and economic conditions" of the CNMI from January to March.

Other reports published by Commerce are available online at www.commerce.gov.mp/new.

## CHC

*From Page 1*

for her family to go back to the U.S. mainland.

She said her husband, Michael Thomas, is also ready to submit his resignation today. Thomas, who is on sick leave, works as a Systems Administrator for DPH.

Sharma said it is extremely sad for them to leave, especially at this time when the Commonwealth Health Center is lacking personnel.

"It's just that we have to go. It's purely personal," she said.

### HRSA scholar

A recent article on the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services website had featured Dr. Sharma as a product of an HRSA scholarship.

In exchange for a two-year scholarship for University of New Mexico Medical School from the National Health Service Corps she agreed to work in an area with a great shortage of health care providers, in this case Saipan. After medical school, she completed her residency in Internal Medicine from the University of Virginia and moved to the CNMI.

She and her family—a husband and two young children—moved to Saipan more than two years ago.

The article can be accessed at http://www.hrsa.gov/ourStories/sharma.shtm.

### Short-staffed

The CNMI's lone hospital is currently having problems in hiring medical staff. Currently, it only has one general surgeon instead of two and it has no nephrologist, or kidney doctor.

Insiders said that by June 1, there would only be three internists when there should be eight.

Sharma said the family is planning to leave by the middle of next month.

DPH is actively recruiting another fulltime general surgeon for CHC.

DPH is having difficulty in its recruitment because of several issues like the CNMI's remote location and the smaller salary it offers.

## RESTRICTION

*From Page 1*

that the "restriction is not due to navigational aids or conditions of the port" but it's a safeguard against oil spills and containment of an oil spill, should it happen in CNMI waters.

The order will only be lifted once the CNMI has in place a non-tank vessel response plan, which sets the rules by which vessels can enter or exit CNMI waters at night.

Lizama said the draft requirements include response capabilities such as containment booms, response equipment and time response elements.

The draft standards is now being reviewed by the U.S. Coast Guard.

CPA expects the lifting of the order next month.

"Once the [non-tank vessel response plan] is approved, the Coast Guard will lift the order and allow the movement of vessels in and out of the CNMI waters at anytime. …The anticipated date is end of June," Lizama added.

Despite the order, the ports manager indicated that operations at the dock, including at nighttime, remain fully operational.

"It is just the vessel movement operations within 12 nautical miles of the CNMI waters that are restricted at this time. Vessel operators are aware and have adjusted their movements so that there is no waiting time out in the open sea," she said.

Camacho said that, although the restriction is still in effect, this did not cause significant changes to the agency's operation.

"There are no significant effects or impacts to the ports operation," he said.

Camacho said the same number of vessels would come in, whether there is restriction or not.

"Also, for safety reasons, most vessels would time their arrival and departure during daytime as it is much safer," the executive director said.

## ALIEN

*From Page 1*

oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 in the CNMI.

The hearing is scheduled for May 19, to be conducted by the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife of the Committee on Natural Resources.

According to the manifest signed by representatives of eight different alien worker groups, all persons and organizations are entitled to present any comments and views to the subcommittee but they would like Sablan to speak for them at the hearing.

The groups are also pinning their hopes on the CNMI's first non-voting delegate in the U.S. Congress, Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan.

The groups lauded Doromal's efforts to help their plight, saying she is a great advocate for workers and the common people in the CNMI. However, they said she does not represent any particular group or organization.

"In another sense, she represents all groups and organizations that have worker and foreign national interests at heart. Wendy has an important message to bring to the subcommittee and should be heard—but as an advocate, an activist. A spokesperson for all and no one in particular," the groups said in the manifest.

Rep. Tina Sablan, the groups said, is an important new voice in CNMI politics because she represents integrity, transparency, justice, fairness and commitment to the future of the CNMI.

"She has considerable understanding of the issues and challenges we face," the worker groups said.

The manifest was signed by Boni V. Sagana of Dekada Movement, Ge Zhao of the Chinese Community, Conrad Ocampo of Unity, Rhegie Diesta of the Coalition of United Workers-NMI, Rabby Syed of the United Workers Movement, Ronnie B. Doca of Pilcowa Inc., Itos Feliciano of Human Dignity Movement and Ernesto Maicle of MOVER.

The groups will be holding a peaceful assembly on May 18 starting at 7am in front of the Homeland Security Office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Doromal sent a copy of a joint resolution passed by the UWM and PILCOWA, designating her to represent them.

The joint resolution said that Doromal is known for her exemplary work and dedication to the welfare of all nonresident contract workers and as a human rights advocate.

The resolution also states that Doromal is deemed a practical choice because she is already in the U.S. mainland.

JUST OVER A MONTH TO ACCREDITATION DECISION

# NMC still needs to turn in its status report

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Less than two months to an accreditation decision, the Northern Marianas College still needs to submit another report this month to reaffirm its ties with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

NMC Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the college will soon submit to the commission a status report highlighting the college's accomplishments in resolving concerns raised by WASC.

NMC submitted on April 1 its compliance report for the two remaining WASC recommendations. This was on top of two reports submitted in October 2008 and March 2009.

Cepeda

Cepeda said the status report is not "fully required" by WASC.

"This is not an additional requirement for NMC. The document is a supplemental report to give the commission updates on where we stand at this time after addressing all the recommendations," Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune*.

The April report was followed by a team visit but the board chairman emphasized that the report had nothing to do with the visit.

The fate of NMC's accreditation would be decided in a June assembly of the commission where NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is expected to provide a verbal update on the college's status.

Cepeda described the status report as a "summary" and "reaffirmation" of what the institution has addressed less than two years after being placed on show-cause status.

"We want to reaffirm what NMC has done for its accreditation…and that we're doing the job," he said.

Compared to previous accreditation reports, this last document may not need the formal adoption of the board, Cepeda said.

The status report will contain, among others, the impact of accreditation work on NMC staff, students, and the college as a whole.

"The commission wants to know what we gained out of it, what learning experience it provided the students and the staff…and how the shared governance issue helped in the resolution of the team recommendations," he said.

NMC was placed on show-cause status in February 2008 after two of the six concerns cited by the commission were left "unaddressed."

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the April 1 report provided details and examples of the college's compliance with integrating planning, program review, and budgeting as well as institutionalizing the program review process.

# No *probation period for* NMC *president under new contract*

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The four-year employment contract approved by the Board of Regents for Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez contains no provision requiring a probationary period for the official.

Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda clarified, though, that the absence of such language in the contract will not hinder the board from making a decision if it is dissatisfied with Fernandez's performance during the duration of her term.

"There is a period stipulated in her contract that the board needs to issue within 60 days a notice if we wish to dismiss or cancel the contract of the president," Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

This, he said, provides the same intent as a probationary period clause.

Fernandez, who assumed the post in May 2007, was renewed for an extended term of four years, from the original contract of only two years. She was given the same $80,000 annual pay and an $800 housing allowance.

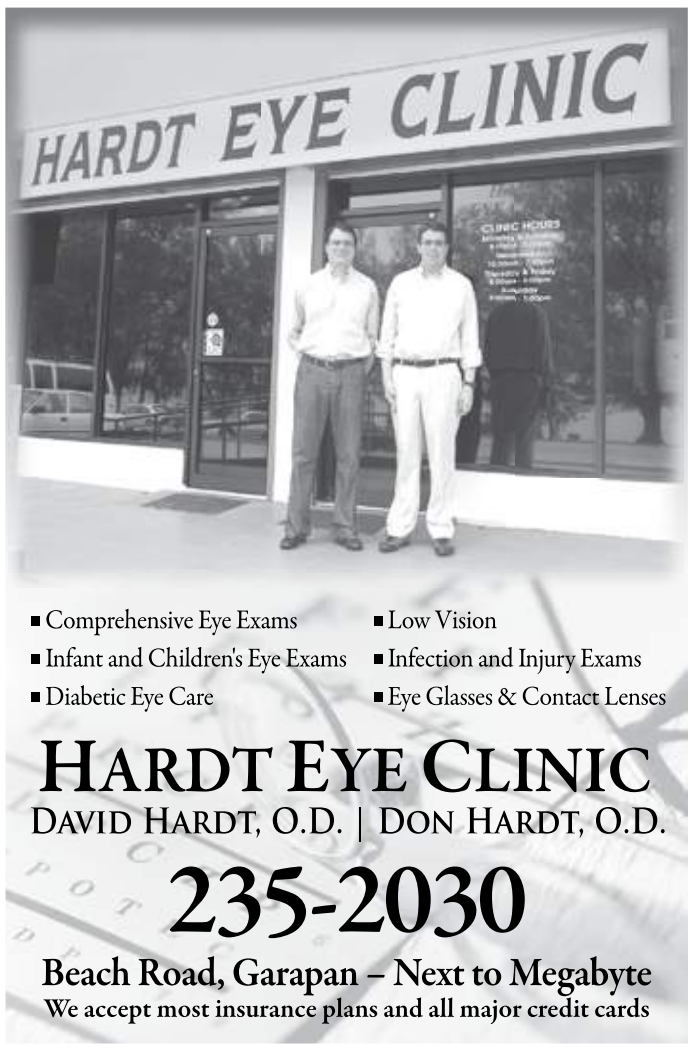
Cepeda emphasized that the exclusion of a "probationary provision" in the president's contract has been a board practice since way back.

"The same provision was excluded in her original two-year contract approved by the board," Cepeda said.

Prior to approving Fernandez's contract, the board and college management were bombarded with faculty concerns about the president's management and hiring practices.

Cepeda said the board received no specific concerns following the board's decision to renew Fernandez's contract.

"We haven't received anything on this matter…and maybe it's too soon. We haven't gotten any feedback on our decision renewing the president for four more years," Cepeda said.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# Pacific mayors begin arriving today for conference

Mayors and municipal officials from around the Pacific Rim will begin descending on Saipan today, Wednesday, May 13, for the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference.

Agana Heights Mayor Paul McDonald, president of the Association of Pacific Island Local Governments, and Antonia Tudela, head of the conference steering committee, held meetings with conference, banquet and entertainment venues around Saipan yesterday with an advance party of 15 conference organizers and support staff.

Themes of the conference surround the military buildup in Guam, and the effects and opportunities it will have on and for the constituents of the municipal officials in the region, and the federalization of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The APILG is expected to author a resolution calling for the buildup to guarantee substantial benefits for all the Mariana Islands.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, whose administration issued dozens of visitor entry permits for foreign delegates to enter Saipan for the conference, will speak about the CNMI losing that responsibility, among others, and what it will mean for the future of the Commonwealth.

The 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference is the regular membership meeting of the APILG. Its membership comprises mayors, city officials and municipal council members from countries around the Pacific. Last year's conference in Guam attracted more than 450 delegates.

For the event, the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan expects to fly flags from the United States, the Philippines, Palau, Guam and the CNMI.

The conference is scheduled for May 14 to 17—the first two days in Garapan at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, with conference training sessions and speeches on May 14 and 15.

Conference officials will be hosted on Saturday, May 16 and 17, on Tinian by the Tinian Municipal Council and the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Among conference highlights are addresses by Fitial; Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, deputy director of the U.S. Department of Defense's Joint Guam Program Office; Maya B. Kara and Bruce Mailman, partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara LLC; Joe Bradley, economist for Bank of Guam; and Herbert Johnston, education director of the Guam Trades Academy.

There will also be a trade fair in conjunction with the conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

The Tinian trip will include a feast on the beach, a cockfight derby, and a special mayors' poker tournament at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Tan Holdings Corp., The Palms at Pau Pau Beach and Bank of Guam are gold sponsors of the conference; Joeten Enterprises, IT&E, Bank of Saipan, Continental Airlines, and the Association of Marianas Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Council Members are silver sponsors; and bronze sponsors are Saipan Shipping Co., J's Restaurant, SmithBridge Guam Inc., and Kautz Glass Co. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**

Belated happy birthday to our princess, Elyshia Jayleen Pangelinan! Wishing you the best and many more to come. We love you! Greetings come from your mommy and your brothers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Auntie Pauline Camacho Roligat! May you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Junjun Boy dela Cruz in Arizona.

# French to speak at Memorial Day rites on May 25

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rear Adm. William D. French, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Marianas, will keynote t he 2009 Memorial Day celebration on May 25 at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

French is the U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

He will be accompanied by his wife Monika.

CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman released yesterday the tentative program for this year's observance of the annual event.

"This is the day we remember our fallen soldiers and our loved ones who are buried at the cemetery," Coleman said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will sign the proclamation Tuesday next week, designating May 19-25 as Memorial Week.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band will lead the pre-ceremonial music, the National and CNMI anthems, taps, and the post-ceremonial music.

Saipan Southern High School's JROTC Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard will lead the raising of the U.S. and CNMI flags.

Fr. Joseph E. Billiotti, Vicar General of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, will lead the invocation, followed by welcoming remarks from the governor.

After a short message, Rear Admiral French, along with Fitial and the military service and veterans, will lay wreaths.

The memorial tribute will be led by first lady Josie Fitial and Monika French.

Members of Company E, 100tth Battalion, 442nd Infantry, U.S. Army Reserve will follow with a 21 rifle salute.

The program is paid for by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457.

# CDA preparing a debt relief plan for borrowers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is currently drafting a workable debt relief plan for its borrowers in lieu of the global economic crisis.

"We're trying out what sort of assistance to at least provide some additional relief to [CDA borrowers]," CDA executive director Manny A. Sablan said in an interview yesterday.

Sablan said CDA's primary intention is to ease some of the burdens that borrowers are facing, especially those who are heavily impacted by the economic downtrend.

"Very soon, we will be presenting to the board the definitive plan for this," Sablan assured.

CDA signed last week an equity conversion agreement with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Sablan explained that this would convert the debt of CUC to CDA into equity or preferred stocks.

That means CUC's loan would no longer be considered debt and CDA would own preferred stocks with CUC, entitling CDA to dividends corresponding to that stock.

Sablan said this agreement is mutually beneficial to both parties.

CDA was created with the sole purpose to stimulate economic development in the CNMI through economic loan funds to private and public sectors for economic development.

It provides aid for financing of capital improvements projects undertaken by the Development Banking Division.

By provisions of the law, CDA serves as the CNMI's development bank to restructure debts and provide loan guarantees through private lending institutions, to provide funding for new and ongoing development projects and other programs.

It also supports marine, agricultural and commercial activities through its loan programs and offers technical assistance to existing business.

In other news, PTI Services Inc. is set to present to the CDA board its plan to expand its call center service in the CNMI.

The company earlier conducted a public hearing on this and it's now the turn of the members of the CDA board to see the presentation.

The board is headed by Pete Itibus.


SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

| Outbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETD Jakarta | ETD Bangkok | ETD P. Kelang | ETD Melbourne | ETD Singapore | ETD Hochiminh | ETD Busan | ETD Kobe | ETD Shanghai | ETD Auckland | ETD Manila | ETD Hongkong | ETD Kaoshiung | ETD Naha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MELL SENOKO | 021E | 5/2 Sat | 4/30 Thu | 4/30 Thu | 4/28 Tue | 4/25 Sat | 5/8 Fri | 5/4 Mon | 5/3 Sun | 4/26 Sun | 4/26 Sun | 5/4 Mon | 5/8 Fri | 5/10 Sun | 5/12 Tue |
| MELL SENTOSA | 020E | 5/9 Sat | 5/7 Thu | 5/7 Thu | 5/5 Tue | 5/2 Sat | 5/15 Fri | 5/11 Mon | 5/10 Sun | 5/3 Sun | 5/3 Sun | 5/11 Mon | 5/15 Fri | 5/17 Sun | 5/19 Tue |
| MELL SINGAPORE | 033E | 5/16 Sat | 5/14 Thu | 5/14 Thu | 5/12 Tue | 5/9 Sat | 5/22 Fri | 5/18 Mon | 5/17 Sun | 5/10 Sun | 5/10 Sun | 5/18 Mon | 5/22 Fri | 5/24 Sun | 5/26 Tue |
| MELL SENOKO | 022E | 5/23 Sat | 5/21 Thu | 5/21 Thu | 5/19 Tue | 5/16 Sat | 5/29 Fri | 5/25 Mon | 5/24 Sun | 5/17 Sun | 5/17 Sun | 5/25 Mon | 5/29 Fri | 5/31 Sun | 6/2 Tue |
| MELL SENTOSA | 021E | 5/30 Sat | 5/28 Thu | 5/28 Thu | 5/26 Tue | 5/23 Sat | 6/5 Fri | 6/1 Mon | 5/31 Sun | 5/24 Sun | 5/24 Sun | 6/1 Mon | 6/5 Fri | 6/7 Sun | 6/9 Tue |
| MELL SINGAPORE | 034E | 6/6 Sat | 6/4 Thu | 6/4 Thu | 6/2 Tue | 5/30 Sat | 6/12 Fri | 6/8 Mon | 6/7 Sun | 5/31 Sun | 5/31 Sun | 6/8 Mon | 6/12 Fri | 6/14 Sun | 6/16 Tue |

| Inbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETA Guam | ETD Guam | ETA Saipan | ETA Yap | ETA Koror | ETA GenSan | ETA Davao | ETA Cebu | ETA Hongkong | ETA Kaoshiung | ETA Busan | ETA Yokohama | ETA Manila | ETA Singapore |
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| MELL SINGAPORE | 033E | 5/30 Sat | 5/31 Sun | 5/31 Sun | SKIP | 6/4 Thu | 6/6 Sat | 6/7 Sun | 6/9 Tue | 6/12 Fri | 6/13 Sat | 6/18 Thu | 7/7 Tue | 7/5 Sun | 6/17 Wed |
| MELL SENOKO | 022E | 6/6 Sat | 6/7 Sun | 6/7 Sun | 6/9 Tue | 6/11 Thu | 6/13 Sat | 6/14 Sun | 6/16 Tue | 6/19 Fri | 6/20 Sat | 6/25 Thu | 7/14 Tue | 7/12 Sun | 6/24 Wed |
| MELL SENTOSA | 021E | 6/13 Sat | 6/14 Sun | 6/14 Sun | SKIP | 6/18 Thu | 6/20 Sat | 6/21 Sun | 6/23 Tue | 6/26 Fri | 6/27 Sat | 7/2 Thu | 7/21 Tue | 7/19 Sun | 7/1 Wed |
| MELL SINGAPORE | 034E | 6/20 Sat | 6/21 Sun | 6/21 Sun | 6/23 Tue | 6/25 Thu | 6/27 Sat | 6/28 Sun | 6/30 Tue | 7/3 Fri | 7/4 Sat | 7/9 Thu | 7/28 Tue | 7/26 Sun | 7/8 Wed |

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# DPL gets $750,000 brownfield's grant for cleanup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has chosen the Northern Mariana Islands' Department of Public Lands for a brownfields assessment grant totaling $750,000.

Of the amount, $350,000 will be for Tinian, while $200,000 is for Saipan. The money will be used to evaluate the level of contamination from hazardous substances at 11 sites on the two islands. Another $200,000 will be used specifically to look at 16 petroleum waste sites.

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan congratulated DPL for winning one of the competitive grant.

"Not all states and only two of the U.S. insular areas were awarded these grants," said Sablan. "Congress has made available considerable sums through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the regular appropriations process, but it takes professional work like this in the local government to access the funds."

The CNMI grant forms part of some $111.9 million in all that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced yesterday, aimed at sites around the country where petroleum, or drugs, or other hazardous chemicals have been improperly disposed of. The assessments are just the first step in cleanup efforts. Afterwards comes the process of removing the dangerous substances from the sites and returning the land to beneficial use.

**ON THE NET**

Brownfields cleanup: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/eparecovery/index.htm
EPA Region 9 brownfields recipients: http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf_factsheets/index.cfm

In addition to the assessment work the grant funds announced yesterday will also be used for health monitoring of young and old and other vulnerable populations in the NMI and to support community involvement in the cleanup.

The grants include $37.3 million from the Recovery Act and $74.6 million from the EPA brownfields general program funding.

"Cleaning and reusing contaminated properties provides the catalyst to improving the lives of residents living in or near brownfields communities," said Jackson. "A revitalized brownfields site reduces threats to human health and the environment, creates green jobs, promotes community involvement, and attracts investment in local neighborhoods."

Laura Yoshii, acting Regional Administrator for the U.S. EPA in the Pacific Southwest, said the available funding will clean up distressed properties so they can be productively reused for community benefit

"By revitalizing and restoring neighborhoods nationwide, the EPA continues to put both people and property back to work—creating a better environment and brighter future for the next generation of Americans," she said.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In addition, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002 expanded the definition of a brownfield to include mine-scarred lands or sites contaminated by petroleum or the manufacture of illegal drugs. Grant recipients are selected through a national competition. The Brownfields Program encourages development of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites.. ***(EPA)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### SSHS reports cards out today

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Mid-progress reports are scheduled to be picked up today, May 13, 2009, from 4:40pm to 7pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents/ legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

### Kagman High activities

Attention to parents and guardians of Kagman High School: Progress reports will be distributed on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The monthly PTSA meeting will be held on this same day, from 6pm to 7pm at the school cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to GTC Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. ***(PR)***

### MHS presentation on AP courses

Marianas High School AP teachers will be giving a general presentation on Advance Placement course offerings at MHS on Thursday, May 14, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the cafeteria.

All interested students and parents are invited to attend this information session to gain a better understanding of what is available and what to expect when taking these rigorous and challenging courses. For questions and concerns contacts 237-3206. ***(PR)***

### Kagman Elementary calendar of events

This is to inform parents and guardians of Kagman Elementary School students about the following upcoming important events:

- May 15: Early dismissal of students at 12pm, 4th Quarter Mid-Progress report distribution to parents and guardians at 1:30pm-4:30pm.
- May 18-22: PSS Standard Based Assessment Week for the following students in each affected grade levels: 3rd, 4th, 5th grades and also to include CCLHS in 4th grade level. Students attendance is highly encouraged. SBA is from 8am to 10am, Monday-Friday.
- Registration is ongoing for SY 2009-10 for Kinder to 5th grade students. Parents and guardians must provide the following: Birth certificate, health clearance, health insurance, map of their residence, and legal guardianship from the court in order for any student to be registered without the biological parents. ***(PR)***

**ROYAL COURT OF MARIANA** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy Tinian proudly announces the Royal Court of Mariana 2009. Tasi Thomas Gutierrez Long, second from right, was crowned King Phillip 2009. He is the son of Arley and Phillip Mendiola-Long. Sialeinna Sanchez King, second from left, daughter of Jamie and Tano, was crowned Queen Mariana 2009. Henry Joseph H. San Nicolas Jr., rightmost, son of Anna Marie and Henry San Nicolas, was crowned Maga Lahi 2009, while Arielle Krizelle Goboy Fernandez, leftmost, daughter of Emma and Crisanto Fernandez, was crowned Asaguan Maga Lahi 2009. Total gross ticket sales amounted to $15,500 and 97 raffle prizes were awarded after the Coronation on April 17, 2009. The parents, students, and staff of Grace Christian Academy want to thank the candidates and their parents and all who purchased tickets, along with those who donated prizes.

### MMAC's Team Bodig hosts hot lunch fundraiser

The Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Bodig will host a Hot Lunch Fundraising Event on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at the NMI Museum in Garapan (across Sugar King Park).

Team Bodig is inviting the community to support their efforts in raising much needed funds for the battle against cancer by stopping by and purchasing a delicious hot lunch for only $5 each. The menu includes red rice, sweet and sour ribs, meatballs, sauteed vegetables and a free drink. Luminaries will also be sold for only $5 each. Purchase a luminary to honor a loved one who has survived cancer or is currently undergoing cancer treatment or to remember someone who has lost the battle against cancer. All funds raised remains locally. For more information e-mail Roz Leon Guerrero at rmclguerrero@gmail.com. The 2009 MMAC will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2009, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. The public is invited to enjoy good food, live entertainment, great games and more. All funds raised will go toward the fight against cancer. ***(PR)***

### MHS Class of '70 preps for reunion

The first graduates of Marianas High School, the Class of 1970, is gearing up for its 40th class reunion next year, 2010. As a kicker, the group will be having a potluck picnic for all classmates, on Sunday, May 24, at the Carolinian Utt from 9:30am until 4:30pm. A meeting for the last-minute preparation of the picnic will be held on May 14, Thursday, at the Marianas High School conference room, Building H. at 6pm. All classmates are encouraged to attend this very important gathering. For more information, contact any of the following: Pakito, 234-3182/3/4; Potu, 483-6367 or ablascabrera@hotmail.com; or Maggie Camacho, 322-7367/287-6222 or maggieccamacho@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

### Hopwood Family Fun Night set

Hopwood Junior High school will be holding its 2nd Annual Family Fun Night at its Chalan Piao Campus on Friday, May 15, from 5pm to 10pm. The public is invited to come and enjoy the different fun and games, back-to-back entertainment, food, drinks, and other goodies. Bring your family and friends for a special night out. ***(PR)***

### Marianas High School Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| May 4-15 | Advanced Placement Exams |
| May 13 | 4th Quarter Mid-Progress Report distribution (report will be distributed to students) |
| May 18-22 | PSS Standards Based Assessment tests |
| May 25 | No classes (Memorial Day) |
| June 11 | Graduation ceremony |
| June 15 | End of 4th Quarter |

For questions or concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

### MHS Class of '88 meeting

This is to remind the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at the residence of Melvin P. and Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito, at 6:30pm. For more information, call Kat S. Lizama at 287-3858 or Eleanor A. Cepeda at 285-5974. ***(PR)***

### SSHS reports cards out

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Mid-progress reports are scheduled to be picked up on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, from 4:40pm to 7pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents/legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

### Kagman townhall meetings

Townhall meetings at the Kagman Community Center are as follows:

- Saturday, May 16 at 10am-12 noon: Rosemond Santos
- Heinz and Arnold: To be announced

Other interested candidates can email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. The KKA does not endorse any candidate. Come and be informed. Listen to the candidates and have them address your concerns. ***(PR)***

### New schedule for Puengin Inetnon

Puengin Inetnon will resume starting Friday, May 22 at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. It will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

### New schedule for Kagman Flea Market

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume starting Saturday, May 23 at 8am at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only $5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

### Military ID card personnel visit

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel will be on Saipan to issue new or renewal of Military ID card. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan on May 18-22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm.

For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. ***(PR)***

# Grant funds open to farmers, ranchers

Approximately $18 million in competitive grant funds for Fiscal Year 2009 is available to help independent farmers and ranchers enter into value-added activities.

Ten percent of the funding is available to beginning farmers or ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

Grants may be made for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. The maximum grant amount for a planning grant is $100,000 and the maximum grant amount for a working capital grant is $300,000.

Matching funds are required and must be at least equal to the grant amount (1:1).

### What is value-added?

The term "value-added agricultural product" means any agricultural commodity or product that

■ has undergone a change in physical state (e.g., wheat into flour);

■ was produced in a manner that enhances the value of the agricultural commodity or product, as demonstrated through a business plan that shows the enhanced value (e.g., organic tomatoes);

■ is physically segregated in a manner that results in the enhancement of the value of the agricultural commodity or product (e.g., identity-preserved corn);

■ is a source of farm- or ranch-based renewable energy, including E–85 fuel (e.g., electricity generated from an anaerobic lagoon); or

■ is aggregated and marketed as a locally-produced agricultural food product

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants include independent producers; farmer or rancher cooperatives; agricultural producer groups; or majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

The grants are available to those in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Palau, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei).

An application guide and other materials may be obtained at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm.

Applications must be postmarked by June 22, 2009, and sent to the Hawaii State Office. All other applications must be postmarked on or before July 6, 2009, and sent to the Hawaii State Office,

Lori Nekoba, Business Programs Specialist USDA/Rural Development 154 Waianuenue Ave., Room 311 Hilo, HI 96720

Paper applications must be submitted to the Rural Development State Office above. Electronic applications must be submitted through the Grants.gov Web site at: http://www.grants.gov, following the instructions found on this Web site. ***(PR)***


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- provide a recommendation, preferably from a prior instructor, advisor, principal, or dean;
- be currently enrolled in high school or college or show proof of enrollment for Fall 2009;
- be U.S. Citizens or legally allowed to work in the CNMI.

Some positions may require a valid CNMI driver's license.

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application and submit it, along with the other required documents, to the IT&E Human Resource Office located at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters by Friday, May 22, 2009, 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted. For questions, please call 234-6600.

*IT&E is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer*


## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

**I. Preliminary**
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. October 30, 2009 RBOE
  - ii. January 22, 2009 RBOE
  - iii. February 12, 2009 SBOE
  - iv. February 25, 2009 SBOE
  - v. April 22, 2009 RBOE
  - vi. April 23, 2009 RBOE
  - vii. May 1, 2009 SBOE-HPC Joint Meeting

**II. Public Comments** [1]

**III. Reports**
- a. Chair
  - 1. Meeting of May 7, 2009 with Consulate of Japan
- b. Board Committees
  - i. CIA
  - ii. CIP
  - iii. FPA
    - 1. Meeting of May 12, 2009
  - iv. Special Education & Early Childhood
    - 1. Meeting of May 13, 2009
  - v. LIA
  - vi. School Reform
  - vii. Private Schools
  - viii. Non-Public School Representative
  - ix. Student Representative
- c. Commissioner of Education
  - i. Financial Reports – Local & Federal
  - ii. Other Matters

**IV. Old Business**
- a. Board PD Fund

**V. New Business**
- a. FY'10 Consolidated Grant Application Title V
  - i. Synopsis of the Consolidated Grant Title V – FY'10 April 30, 2009
- b. Synopsis of the CNMI Consolidated ARRA Formula Grants under Title V – July 1, 2009 – September 30, 2011
- c. Saipan Southern High School Green Energy Plan
- d. Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Program – State Participation Agreement
- e. Establishment of Ad Hoc Committee

**VI. Executive Session** [2]
- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel
- c. Other matters

**VII. Miscellaneous Matter**
- a. Trip Report – 20th Annual Service Learning Conference
- b. Trip Report – NSBA Conference, San Diego
- c. Clarification of Roles of Standing Committees

**VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**

**IX. Adjournment**

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

**Head Start Policy Council**
**Agenda**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on May 20, 2009 (Wednesday) from 9:30am – 11:30am at Fleming's, Tinian.

**I. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
   - a. April 16, 2009-Regular Meeting
   - b. May 1, 2009-Special Meeting

**II. Public Comments**

**III. Monthly Reports**
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance
4. Council Standing Committees
   - a. Personnel
   - b. Education
   - c. Executive
   - d. Finance
   - e. Public Relations

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**
1. 2nd Child Outcomes Report

**VI. Executive Session**
1. Expenditures of Anticipated Surplus

**VII. Next Meeting**

**VIII. Adjournment**

*Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8–41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Pursuant to our Policy 8000, Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.*

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

**Mr. Vinnie Sablan**
Chairperson

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
May 11, 2009

**PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**AGENDA**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
   - a. CDA Minutes April 16, 2009
   - b. DCD Minutes April 16, 2009

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Financial Report-CDA
2. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
   - a. PTI Services, Inc. – QC Application

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)**

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### MAY 13, 1999

#### Gov't may scrap some scholarship programs

With revenue collections continue to drop, the government is considering the elimination of several scholarship programs and instead put in place a financial aid scheme for CNMI students seeking college education. Such plan, which will form part of a package of proposals the administration plans to submit to the Legislature for consideration in order to address funding problem in the scholarship programs while ensuring that students have access to financial assistance to pursue higher education. "The current system is extremely inefficient and overly generous," said Dan Nielsen, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's special consultant on education, referring to the Commonwealth's scholarship program.

#### Kindergarten program back on track

After careful consideration of its current teaching personnel and budgetary requirements, the Public School System is set to open the kindergarten registration the soonest possible time. Board member Frances Diaz, who heads the Fiscal and Budget committee, said payroll requirements for kindergarten teachers are already part of the Fiscal Year 2000 proposed spending package, thus eliminating the problem on where to source personnel costs. Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos earlier instructed school principals to delay their kindergarten registration until the agency identifies the pool of teachers that will be assigned in kindergarten classes for primary level.

### MAY 13, 2002

#### Bank of Saipan reopening planned

Court-appointed Bank of Saipan Receiver Randall T. Fennell unveiled plans to reopen the crisis-torn banking corporation on a limited basis, amid investigation findings that although the bank is "illiquid," it is still solvent-or able to pay debts. In a May 8, 2002 First Receiver's Report submitted to the Superior Court, Fennell disclosed a move to implement the "Bank of Saipan Resurrection Operation Plan," which he described as a "stopgap action to allow bank customers limited access to their funds while preventing a bank run." Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan approved Friday the Receiver's Report and at the same time, granted Fennell's motion for clarification of his duties and authority.

#### Manibusan expands receiver's powers

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan agreed Friday to modify court-appointed Bank of Saipan Receiver Randall Fennell's duties and authority as temporary manager of the embattled banking institution. But the court will continue the BoS receivership hearing on May 29, amid strong opposition from the BoS regarding Fennell's appointment as receiver. Michael A. Pangelinan, counsel for respondent BoS, also moved Friday to oppose the receiver's ex parte motion seeking a clarification of Fennell's duties and authority, asserting that "a receiver's powers should be no more intrusive than necessary to address the problem for which he is appointed." The BoS also expressed that it "has been completely deprived of due process in this matter."

### MAY 13, 2003

#### DPS touts proper seatbelt use

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Division is hoping to reduce the number of road accident fatalities by 90 percent in 2005 through strict implementation of proper seatbelt and child restraint usage. Traffic officials, however, said that this is attainable only with the cooperation of Northern Marianas motorists. As a starter, the traffic division will hold series of checkpoints and inspections across the Commonwealth during the 2003 Buckle Up America-Buckle Up CNMI Week of May 19 to 26. Buckle Up America and Buckle Up CNMI officials and advocates are forging a broad, community-based partnership to increase public awareness on the proper use of seatbelts and child safety seats, which is anticipated to lower road accident fatalities by 90 percent in 2005.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
**Public School System**
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

## Invitation For Bid
## PSS IFB 09-014

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, and delivery of laptops for WSR Elementary School. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB09-014"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than May 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or email to the following address: florian@saipan.com.

**/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
Commissioner of Education

**/S/ Robert Florian**
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

## INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-016

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops for Ladera International School of Saipan**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-016"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

**/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
**Commissioner of Education**

**/s/ Robert Florian**
**Procurement & Supply Officer**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

## INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-015

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops and LCD Projectors** for classroom teachers, Counselors and program managers. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-015"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

**/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
**Commissioner of Education**

**/s/ Robert Florian**
**Procurement & Supply Officer**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

## INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-017

### "Computers and Related Equipment for Tinian Junior/ Senior High School"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting, competitive sealed bids for the purchase and delivery of **Desktop Computers, Electronic Equipment, and Digital Projectors for Tinian Junior/Senior High School**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The bid form is set up on Items "A through H". Bidders may bid on same or all of the items.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-017 "containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than May 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

**/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
**Commissioner of Education**

**/s/ Robert Florian**
**Procurement & Supply Officer**

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 114

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

## What test results suggest

The good news that America's elementary and middle school students have made impressive improvements in reading and math is unfortunately tempered by the dismal performance of high school students. After all, it doesn't help much if a child does well in fourth grade but graduates ill prepared for college or the workplace. Educational reforms that seem to be helping younger students must be strengthened and applied to the later grades, and, as the latest results from federal tests show, there's not a minute to waste.

According to the new long-term trend report on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), students at ages 9 and 13 did significantly better on 2008 tests than their counterparts of the early 1970s. Unfortunately, the scores of 17 year olds stayed alarmingly flat over 35 years. There have been welcome gains in shrinking achievement gaps between white and minority students since 1971, although gaps did not change significantly from 2004 to 2008.

NAEP officials report only the "what," not the "whys" behind the scores. Improved performance of younger students, and particularly minorities, can be traced to the standards-based reforms embodied in the No Child Left Behind law and the state efforts that predated it. Minority students who were long overlooked by the education system still trail their white counterparts, but it's significant that black and Hispanic students of all age groups made greater gains in math than white students since 1973 and that black, white and Hispanic 9 year olds all posted higher scores than in previous years.

When the long-term trend results are viewed in the context of other national assessments, an even stronger picture of NCLB's benefits emerge. Consider, for instance, evidence that the emphasis on reading and math has — contrary to the hypothesis of some critics — helped students to do well in other subjects such as science and history. NCLB is now up for reauthorization, and the NAEP report is a clear prompt not to retreat from its principles. There is a need for even more rigor in school curriculums, better efforts to improve teaching and, we hope, the adoption of common, national standards.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

IT APPEARS WE NEED TO ADD TO OUR CAPITAL RESERVES...
BANK OF AMERICA
LEWIS
BUT WE HAVE MANY OPTIONS FOR HOW WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT...
SO LET ME ASSURE YOU BUREAUCRATS .. YOU SO-CALLED JOURNALISTS... AND YOU STUPID BLOGGERS...
THAT EVERYTHING'S FINE! I'M FINE! MY JOB'S FINE!
SO SHUT UP AND BACK OFF!
AND QUIT WORRYING ABOUT THE RESULTS OF OUR STRESS TEST!
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

## Letter to the Editor

# The Pew monument madness continues

I regret to inform you that the Pew Environment Group has returned to the Marianas to continue pushing their non-science-based environmental programs and anti-fishing agenda. However this time, Pew is lurking behind its alter ego, a local Pew-financed group called "Friends of the Monument." Based on stories in last Friday's newspapers, it appears that Pew is using FOM to persuade Delegate Kilili Sablan to submit legislation that would change the existing Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (Marianas Monument) into what Pew originally proposed during their failed 2008 monument campaign. In their April 17, 2009 letter, FOM chair Ignacio Cabrera suggested that Delegate Sablan work with their "*partners in Washington, DC, the Pew Environment Group*." In a further effort to get Pew deeply involved in this particular issue, the FOM chairman proudly proclaims: "*Pew can be very influential inside the Beltway and their expertise may be helpful in assisting you and your staff*." It wouldn't surprise me if Pew has the legislation already drafted and ready to submit.

I understand that Pew was angry when their monument proposal was found to lack merit by the (federal) scientific community who conducted the assessment for the Council on Environmental Quality. Based on the results of his own agencies' assessment and the non-support of the CNMI government, former President Bush outright rejected the Pew monument proposal. However, the ink was barely dry from Bush's signing of Proclamation 8335 (that designated the Marianas Monument) before Pew and their minions started complaining. FOM vice chair Agnes McPhetres proclaimed: "*We're getting less than we wanted, but that's OK…. This is just the beginning*."[1] Additionally, she vowed to lobby President Obama, "*starting from the day he is sworn in ... to come in and finish the job. We set out to protect an entire ecosystem and that is what we intend to do*."[2] The FOM puppet-master, Jay Nelson (director, Pew Ocean Legacy Program) is quoted in *Action Asia* magazine as saying: *"... so we look forward to working with the Obama administration to strengthen the protection of the Marianas Trench monument and to increase the size of other sites.*" [3]

Whether we like it or not, Pew has mounted another campaign to force their version of a marine national monument on the people of the CNMI and Guam. I expect nothing less than another arrogant and culturally insensitive environmental campaign based solely on the wants of Pew. Remember when Pew claimed their role was solely limited to public education? When Pew would not interfere with any negotiations that may occur between the CNMI and federal governments? That the final monument design would reflect the wishes of the local government? Here are three relevant quotes to refresh your memory:

(1) The Pew CNMI Coordinator stated: "*Pew Environment Group isn't the one making any decisions. All decisions will be made by the governments." [4]*

(2) A great statement from Pew (Jay Nelson) to Governor Fitial: "*The rules by which monuments are created are not fixed. The NW Hawaiian Islands model suited the circumstances and interests of the Governor and people of Hawaii. If a Marine Monument were to be designated in the CNMI the resource management undoubtedly would differ to reflect local wishes*." [5]

(3) And my all time personal favorite quote from the Pew CNMI Coordinator: "*We have been crystal clear from day one that the proposal for designating a protected area in the waters around the northern three islands is for discussion between the leaders of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and officials from the federal government. Our role is simply to educate the community on the opportunity offered by…*" [6]

The only thing that is "*crystal clear from day one*" is that Pew promised the people of the Marianas that they would have a hands-off approach when the CNMI government was negotiating the details of *our* monument. Pew assured us that their role was limited to community education and preaching to the masses. Since the designation of the Marianas Monument in January 2009, Pew has decided they don't like what the CNMI government negotiated. So Pew is reneging on their original promises and has resurrected their original "no-take" monument proposal to again push it on the people of the Marianas. What about Mr. Nelson's claim that "*if a marine monument were to be designated in the CNMI, the resource management undoubtedly would differ to reflect local wishes*."?[5] I don't believe "sincerity" is part of the Pew vocabulary.

So, what is the underlying reason that Pew wants to substantially change the existing Mariana Monument design? The answer lies hidden in the FOM letter to Delegate Sablan. FOM chair Cabrera subtlety infers that many of the promises they made to the people of the CNMI are unlikely to be met with the present Marianas Monument arrangement. For this reason, they want to modify the Marianas Monument to include the numerous inflexible prohibitions originally proposed by Pew and to significantly expand monument boundaries for the islands unit. Included in the FOM letter is a 5-point monument improvement plan that Pew believes will improve the ability for them to fulfill their promises. As an aside, may I suggest that the new Pew monument campaign slogan be: *Support the new Pew version of the monument—all the* earlier promises we *made will* really *come true this time! Really!* It wouldn't surprise me if Pew announces publicly that the CNMI government is to blame for Pew not being able to get their promises fulfilled.

In line with Pew's anti-fishing agenda, the first of their 5-point improvement plan includes a request for legislation that would prohibit all fishing activities (except for "cultural and traditional purposes") throughout the entire monument—including the trench and volcanic units where fishing activities are presently allowed. As a significant area of the Mariana Trench Unit occurs within the Guam Exclusive Economic Zone, I was disappointed that FOM did not extend the courtesy of copying Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo or Guam Gov. Felix Camacho on their letter. One would think that Guam would be interested in knowing that FOM is advocating taking away their fishing rights within the monument. I realize this approach may be foreign to Pew, but we call this common courtesy in the Pacific Island region.

If the people of the Marianas have learned anything from the 2008 Pew monument campaign fiasco, it is that any promises made by Pew or their representatives mean absolutely nothing. Pew has shown no integrity or one ounce of respect to the people of the Marianas or their culture. The only thing the schoolyard bully has

*See THE PEW on Next Page*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# The Second Power

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

One can play the game to win
and one can lead the cheer
One can draw what's yet to be
and one can engineer

One can paint the picture first
and one can sell the art
One can think first with the head
and one leads with the heart

One can fly to fantasy
and one can keep it real
One can set the policy
and one can close the deal

One can do the gathering
and one carries the load
One can read the map for both
and one can watch the road

One can ask the questions first
and one can then advise
(Sometimes you'll see farther
with a second pair of eyes)

One can do a lot of things
but this I'll share with you:
*"when two or more are gathered…"*
there's no telling what they'll do!

No matter what project or journey you're embarking on, you can go much further, see more clearly, fly much higher, and achieve greater things when the dream is shared with and aided by another. Sometimes all you need is that one extra set of eyes, or that one extra mind focused on your goal to make it come true. There's an exponential increase in the energy available for creation, and a greater hope of success when you harness other people's energy. (H.O.P.E.= Harness Other People's Energy)

Metaphysicians, spiritualists, motivational speakers, and all religions speak of this phenomenon, and much evidence supports the documented power of teams, networking, group prayer, mentoring, friendships and mastermind alliances as critical components of success, prosperity, healing and personal growth. So, in whatever you do, make it your first priority to find your second power! Success awaits.

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

***Creating economic success for the CNMI***

**By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**
*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.*

**Note**: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including* Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the U.S., and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

# Experiencing, learning, reacting

Experience, learn, react. An interesting triumvirate. Fail to pay attention to such will lead to disaster, said George. The related question often posed to the general population is, "What came first, the chicken or the egg." The answer? Well, there is no answer. It is unknowable, and it doesn't matter. Still as a matter of philosophical interest, what might be an answer—any answer?

Another question might be, is it behavior instinctual or is it experiential? Or is it part one and part the other? Again interesting, and unknowable in absolute terms. Instinct informs us to be safe before we be clever, able before interested, and careful before acting. But, that said, how do we know what instinct has in store for us? Answer, we don't. Helluva world.

Psychologists argue interminably as to whether instinct or experience is the source of sources. Maslow, a heavyweight researcher, allows that instinctual behaviors and needs must precede anything learned as a matter of the environment, i.e., experience. Yet the feeling remains that everything of importance that must be known is a matter of something else happening at some point in the classical past.

Experience is everything, said my mother. She may not have always been right, but she was right often enough. It was watching my family react to political and social and economic challenges that got me interested in things human. We see our neighbors, friends, and associates act and react daily. Upshot? So do we act and react. For the life of me I cannot understand why we spin our collective wheels so much, achieving so little in the way of results knowing what we know.

So where do we achieve, where do we "learn" of these social, economic, and political values and acquire the knowledge we need to employ such in such activities? How do we know how to react to them? The answer of course is that such things are instinctual; they are not experiential. We know how to react to them because of the nature of things, not the nurture. We do not learn to be sexually active; it comes naturally. We do not learn how to react to fearful situations; it comes naturally. Reacting in and of itself is a natural act. Still…

Experience plays a huge role in our development. If we are terrified while strapped to a thrill ride at an amusement park. If we are overcome with emotion at the sight of a person of the opposite sex. If we are concerned with the safety and well being of others; it is because we have learned empathy, probably as a result of some experience.

We react to others' behavior. We are ourselves role models for those less experienced and younger than are we. That we are predisposed to do these things and react in these ways is interesting and probably a matter of clinical interest.

That such things are true we are certain. What they mean for us in the long run is less certain. We know that knowledge is strength and economically useful in all possible worlds.

**By STEPHEN B. SMITH**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office. E-mail him at saipansmith1940@yahoo.com.*

While we can say with certitude that instinctual behaviors do exist and do play a part in molding us, it is experience that teaches us the major lessons of life. It is experience that shows us the path to contentment. Discovering that path is the problem. It cannot be left to chance or happenstance.

We must be proactive in both the search of relevant experience and for the methods and opportunities to employ them. Knowing that experience is the mother of all learning is not enough; we must actively proselytize the knowing. It is only thus that we may avoid George Santayana's concern that that those who do not learn from history are destined to re-live it.

## Letter to the Editor

# Intimidation? Really?

All due respect to former representative Janet Maratita but didn't anyone tell you that you were in a federal court in a hearing against the second highest official in the Commonwealth? Didn't anyone tell you that the trial was serious, sensitive, and critical, Mrs. Maratita? Didn't anyone ever tell you that it was a case involving conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery? Didn't anyone ever tell you to sit up straight and not to chew gum in any court, both local and federal court? Yes, of course, we were all taught and reminded constantly throughout our school years such discipline as how and when to sit up straight and not to chew gum while class is in session. If you don't know, the courts also does not allow sunglasses, hats, caps, putting on your makeup, and being under the influence of narcotics or alcohol. This also applies to small claims courts.

The answer is simple: One must respect our judicial systems both local and federal, for without them we will have martial law.

It's unfortunate you were intimidated by the serious-looking U.S. federal marshals who are trained to do their jobs without a glitch, and it seems like your charm did not faze them at all, Mrs. Maratita. I believe that if I were in Mr. Tony Guerrero's shoes, I would want the U.S government right next to me and if I had actually made it the court hearings, I can guarantee you that I will be sitting next or with the government, Mrs. Maratita.

Now the biggest question is motive. What drove you to file such a juvenile complaint? Politics, lack of attention or intentionally creating attention? Which one is it, Mrs. Maratita? Let me guess. It's election year and most likely you're planning to run for office and you need the votes, right? Truly, this complaint is a sign of desperation and a lame excuse coming from a former House Representative who is emotionally blind and ignorant that the people of the Commonwealth, the consumers, have all suffered enough from such illegal acts in our homeland. The case of Pelisamen is beyond comparison to that of the former Lt. Governor's, simply because Pelisamen is an ordinary citizen and Timothy Villagomez was the second highest elected official, a lieutenant governor serving the people of the Commonwealth in public office.

Due process and justice have been served.

**Gregorio Cruz Jr.**
*Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.*

## THE PEW

*From Page 10*

been straight with us about is that they are here to take away our fishing rights, any potential right for oil, gas and mineral extraction and give it to the federal government to "properly" manage, according to Pew preaching. I can't help but wonder how the indigenous people of the Marianas survived for all these thousands of years without Pew around to tell them what to do.

**John Gourley**
*Navy Hill, Saipan*

[1]http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-bush-pacific-conservation-009jan06,0,2645677.story

[2]http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28506975/

[3]Action Asia magazine (March/April 2009.

[4]http://jetapplicant.blogspot.com/2008/06/another-illegal-wespac-meeting.html

[5]Letter from Pew Environment Group (Jay Nelson) to Governor Fitial dated Dec. 20, 2007

[6]Letter-to-Editor, "Facts, Not Fiction"; *Marianas Variety*, June 23, 2008

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼79° | ▲87° ▼79° | ▲87° ▼79° | ▲88° ▼79° |

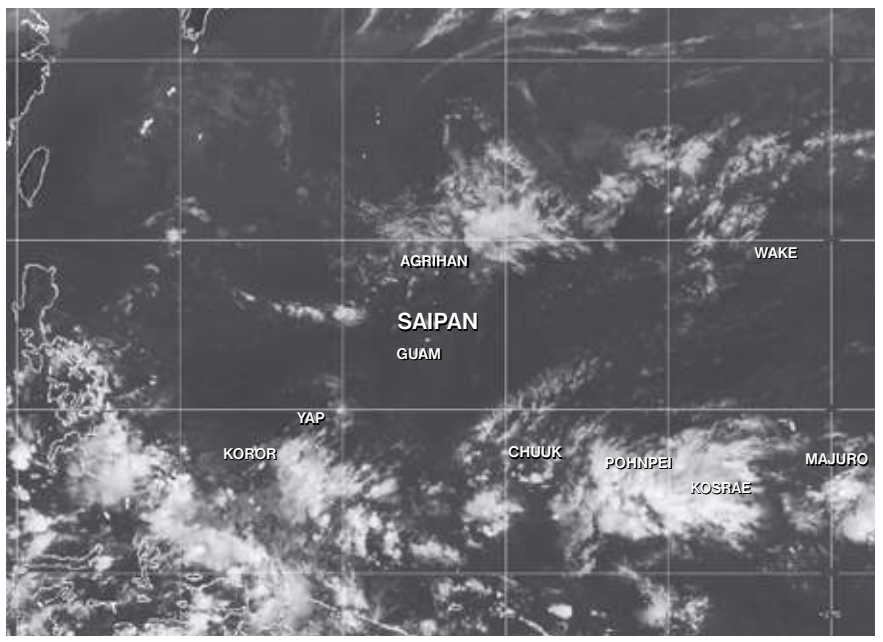
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼80 |
| Majuro | Rain | ▲84 | ▼78 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲60 | ▼53 |
| Beijing | Cloudy | ▲77 | ▼63 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Honolulu | Sunny | ▲82 | ▼71 |
| London | Rain | ▲63 | ▼50 |
| Los Angeles | Cloudy | ▲78 | ▼58 |
| Manila | Showers | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | ▲62 | ▼48 |
| Miami | Partly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼75 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲71 | ▼54 |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | ▲71 | ▼53 |
| Paris | Thundershowers | ▲73 | ▼52 |
| Pusan | Mostly Sunny | ▲75 | ▼54 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲77 | ▼56 |
| Salem | Cloudy | ▲56 | ▼49 |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | ▲66 | ▼54 |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | ▲73 | ▼52 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲72 | ▼55 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲74 | ▼57 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak shear line undulates eastward from 17N133E to 16N140E to near Pagan in the CNMI to 21N150E to 22N162E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 50 miles north of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 5N130E to EQ137E. Converging winds near the trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror within an area bounded by a line from 8N130E to 5N133E to 9N137E to 6N143E to 1N143E to EQ134E to EQ130E back to 5N130E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae and just south of Pohnpei and Majuro between 2N and 7N from 155E to 173E and also east of Majuro between 6N and 8N from 175E to 180.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4:32 AM Today | Low Tide: | 1.3 Feet |
| 8:53 AM Today | High Tide: | 1.7 Feet |
| 4:31 PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 11:52 PM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:49 AM | 6:38 PM |
| Thursday | 5:49 AM | 6:38 PM |
| Friday | 5:48 AM | 6:38 PM |
| Saturday | 5:48 AM | 6:39 PM |
| Sunday | 5:48 AM | 6:39 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:11 PM | 8:44 AM |
| Thursday | 10:56 PM | 9:36 AM |
| Friday | 11:37 PM | 10:27 AM |
| Saturday | | 11:17 AM |
| Sunday | 12:15 AM | 12:06 PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 12:25pm | 1,7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9317 | 4:30am | 5:20am | Daily |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm | 1, 7 |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | 4, 5 |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9598 | 2:20am | 2:50am | 5, 6 |
| CO9312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-PALAU (ROR)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO893 | 5:50pm | 6:50pm | 3, 5 |
| CO953 | 6:50pm | 7:50pm | 1, 7 |
| CO953 | 7:35pm | 10:05pm | 2, 4, 6 |

**PALAU (ROR)-MANILA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO893 | 7:35pm | 9:10pm | 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 3, 5 via ROR |
| CO933 | 7:00pm | 8:40pm | Daily |
| PR111 | 6:00am | 7:45am | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW99 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| NW78 | 9:00am | 2:05pm | Daily via NGO |
| NW75 | 3:50pm | 6:25am | Daily |

**GUAM-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO961 | 6:35am | 9:10am | Daily |
| NW83 | 8:00am | 1:55pm | Daily via KIX |
| CO6 | 12:00pm | 2:45pm | Daily |
| NW73 | 4:05pm | 7:00pm | Daily |
| CO963 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | 1 |
| OZ119 | 4:20am | 7:00am | 4,6 |

**GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW83 | 8:00am | 10:45am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW78 | 9:00am | 11:40am | Daily |

**GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO971 | 7:45am | 10:30am | Daily |
| NW23 | 4:10pm | 7:05pm | Daily |
| CO975 | 4:35pm | 7:25pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:50am | 6:30am | excl 1 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:20am | 1 via KIX |
| OZ119 | 4:20am | 11:20am | 4, 6 via KIX |

**SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ721 | 9:05am | 11:45am | Daily |
| OZ723 | 7:45pm | 10:30pm | Daily |

**SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ701 | 8:35am | 11:25am | Daily |
| OZ703 | 7:50pm | 10:50pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9598 | 3:25am | 4:00am | 5, 6 |
| CO9312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9316 | 2:20am | 3:10am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| CO9598 | 2:20am | 4:00am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 5:00am | Daily |
| CO9600 | 10:20am | 11:10am | Daily x6 |
| CO9312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm | 1, 7 |

**PALAU (ROR)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO954 | 1:10am | 5:30am | 3, 5, 7 |
| CO954 | 1:45am | 4:40am | 1, 2 |
| CO892 | 2:35am | 5:30am | 4, 6 |

**MANILA-PALAU (ROR)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO892 | 10:10pm | 1:50am+1 | 3, 5 |

**MANILA-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 3, 5 via ROR |
| CO934 | 10:55pm | 4:30am+1 | Daily |
| PR110 | 10:00pm | 4:00am | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW76 | 10:00am | 2:35pm | Daily |
| NW77 | 6:30pm | 1:40am+1 | Daily via NGO |
| NW100 | 7:50pm | 12:30am+1 | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW74 | 10:00am | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO962 | 10:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| CO7 | 3:50pm | 8:25pm | Daily |
| NW84 | 6:20pm | 1:40am+1 | Daily |
| CO964 | 8:25pm | 1:00am+1 | Daily |
| NW82 | 8:30pm | 1:05am+1 | 4 |
| NW82 | 8:30pm | 1:20am+1 | X 4 |

**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ120 | 9:55pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 5, 6 |

**OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW84 | 9:05pm | 1:40am+1 | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW77 | 9:10pm | 1:40am | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW24 | 10:00am | 2:35pm | Daily |
| CO970 | 11:30am | 4:30pm | Daily |
| CO972 | 8:25pm | 12:55am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 4, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 5, 6 via KIX |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | excl 7 |

**HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724 | 12:30am | 5:05am | Daily |
| OZ722 | 1:15pm | 5:45pm | Daily |

**MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702 | 12:45pm | 5:45pm | Daily |
| OZ704 | 11:50pm | 4:40am+1 | Daily |

**SHANGHAI-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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# Autism Commission plans to meet report deadline

On April 2, 2009, members of the newly formed Autism Commission met for the second time in as many months since the Commonwealth Autism Act of 2008 became law.

The commission chairperson, Vince Merfalen, himself a parent of a child with autism, set the commission's activities into motion with an immediate call to organize action teams.

These teams, said Merfalen, shall deploy into the different areas of the community to gather information; identify specific needs, issues, gaps in programs and services; evaluate possible solutions; and make recommendations for improvement.

With concurrence from a majority of its members, Merfalen insists that the commission produce a preliminary report to be widely disseminated throughout the CNMI as early as May this year.

The law requires the commission to develop a final, more comprehensive report no later than August 2010.

"Our implied tasks should include status or update reports to all relevant agencies in the CNMI throughout the initial 18-month life-span of the Commission," Merfalen said.

**CONTACT INFO**

- Council on Developmental Disabilities: 664-7000, www.cnmicdd.com
- Northern Marianas Protection Advocacy Systems Inc., www.nmpasi.com

In February 2009, with aggressive support from various members of the community, particularly parents of children with autism, the Autism Act was passed and the multi-member commission was created to develop a comprehensive plan for services to individuals of all ages with autism.

Specifically, the commission is tasked to explore options for and answer questions relating to:

(1) providing state-of-the-art clinical services;

(2) increasing capacity for services through training;

(3) increasing knowledge and awareness about autism in the community; and

(4) conducting research aimed at improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

In general, commission members share the mutual belief that input is essential and that without it, the panel would miss valuable insight and key elements for achieving its goals and objectives.

"As such, the commission welcomes any and all input from all members of the community and asks that anyone interested in offering insight to please call the Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000 or the Northern Marianas Protection Advocacy Systems, Inc. or contact via the Internet at www.cnmicdd.com or www.nmpasi.com. ***(PR)***

# 'Arts at the Museum' calls for vendors

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is hosting "Art at the Museum" every Saturday throughout the year. The goal of the activity is to provide for a common space for an "art in the park" type of event for resident artists. The "Arts at the Museum" is open to all artists residing in the CNMI. Artists should visit the Museum to register for the event. Same day walk-in registrations will also be permitted.

In addition to the invitation to artists, the Museum is seeking interested food and beverage vendors for the weekly event. In particular, the Museum would like to invite non-profit groups who are fundraising to utilize the activity. At this point, one food and beverage vendor will be permitted to sell on the grounds during the activity. All interested vendors should visit the Museum, located across from the Sugar King Park, to register.

The "Arts at the Museum" will take place every Saturday, from 9am to 2pm on the grounds of the NMI Museum of History and Culture. The event is free to the public and everyone is invited. For more information, contact the Museum at telephone 664-2160. ***(PR)***

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# Japanese memorial rites remember war dead

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another memorial service paying tribute to those who perished during World War II was led by 196 visiting Japanese and about 20 from the local community at Banzaii Cliff on Sunday, a day after over a hundred visiting Koreans and members of the local community held a similar ceremony also in Marpi.

Ayako Matsumoto, vice president of Pacific Eagle Enterprises Inc., event organizer, yesterday said Sunday's memorial service was led by the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination, which built the peace memorial monument at Banzai Cliff last year.

The monument honors the hundreds of Japanese civilians who jumped to their deaths during the last days of the Pacific War.

"They came back with 196 persons who include Ms. Reiho Inayama, the highest priest of this denomination, two guest priests, Mr. Baigan Ryoushun of the Yuzu Nenbutu Denomination, and the believers," Matsumoto told *Saipan Tribune*.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and Japanese Consul Tsutomu Higuchi joined the group during the ceremony, which included prayers and planting a flame tree and a plumeria tree in honor of those who died during the war.

Before the peace ceremony, the visiting Japanese group cleaned up Banzaii Cliff and other Marpi areas, just like last year.

Carlos Ketebengang, in a separate phone interview, said the group of about 120 individuals collected 460 lbs of trash on Saturday in Marpi in time for the peace memorial the following day.

Matsumoto said the cleanup was done with the help of DEQ's Ketebengang and Joe Kaipat, along with Marianas Visitors Authority's Martin Duenas, Frank Tudela and Hiroko Tenorio, and officers and employees of PDI, Aglaia Restaurant, Kan Pacific Saipan Co. Ltd., PMT and Pacific Eagle.

"The Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination would like to thank all people who supported them to have a successful ceremony. They would like to come back again next year and the succeeding years to come," Matsumoto added.

Saipan was a major battleground between Japanese and American forces during World War II.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Reiho Inayama, the highest priest of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination, leads the delegation in a memorial service at Banzaii Cliff on Sunday to pay tribute to those who perished during World War II.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination, which built a peace memorial monument at Banzai Cliff last year, pose for a picture after Sunday's memorial service.

# $109M savings eyed once Fund omnibus bill becomes law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least $109 million in savings are expected to help prolong the life span of the NMI Retirement Fund once the yet-to-be-filed omnibus bill to help the pension system becomes law.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chair of the NMIRF Working Group, said the omnibus bill reforms certain provisions of the current Retirement Fund laws, including a reduction in its long-term expenditures, improving actuarial stability, providing for consistency in board policy direction, and limiting its long-term liability.

The omnibus bill also aims to cut costs and restrict member withdrawals, reallocate the health and life insurance programs post-privatization, and reduce health insurance subsidy for highly-paid retirees.

Yumul earlier expected to introduce the bill during yesterday's session, but he said the bill was still under review by other members of the NMIRF Working Group.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon separately confirmed that his office's review of the bill showed potential savings of about $109 million once the bill becomes law, including $84 million from suspending the cost of living allowance.

Yumul said there's roughly $5 million in savings from reducing health insurance subsidy, and another $5 million from streamlining disability benefits.

Aguon said the $109 million in savings will reduce the Retirement Fund's unfunded liability now at over $549 million.

Yumul said the bill will affect future retirees, and not the ones who are currently receiving retirement benefits.

"But these are only projections," said Yumul, who is also chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. "The bill is still subject to public hearings and we expect additional input."

Another feature of the bill is referred to as "bad boy legislation" in which members who are convicted of a felony are either not eligible to receive their retirement benefits or their benefits will be reduced to the lowest rate.

"Again, this feature is open to discussion," said Yumul, adding that the bill also proposes changes to the qualification and composition of the board of trustees, a reduction in occupational disability benefit from 50 percent to 30 percent of the member's salary at the time of the disability, set annuities to not more than $70,000 a year, suspension of cost of living allowance, and reporting of federal funded employees in the first quarter of every year.

Yumul said the whole idea is to slow down the bleeding of the Retirement Fund.

During its first few meetings, the NMIRF Working Group said the piecemeal measures that were incorporated in the omnibus bill were the issuance of pension obligation bonds to help stabilize the Fund's financial health, shielding the Fund from political tampering, prohibiting the Legislature from increasing benefits until all obligations of the Fund have been fully paid; limiting the class of people able to double dip; allowing the Fund to file for bankruptcy; and ceasing all disability benefits and a soft freeze on benefits accrual at 20 years.

The working group currently has 14 members led by chair Yumul, and six technical, statistics and legal support staff.

### Rumor

Yesterday afternoon, a rumor circulated on Capital Hill saying that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has issued an executive order putting the NMI Retirement Fund directly under the Office of the Governor.

Members of the Senate and House, including Senate Pres. Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios, said they also heard about this but didn't see a copy of the executive order.

In the end, Fitial himself said in a text message that he didn't issue such an executive order.

The governor is expected to meet this morning with lawmakers about Retirement Fund issues.

# Three Kagman siblings do well in Texas schools

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Three siblings from Kagman are doing good in their studies in the U.S. mainland after earning scholarship awards in their respective alma maters in Killeen, Texas, where their parents decided to settle last year.

Ruby R. Somorang, 16, of Robert Shoemaker High School, recently earned a spot in the National High School Scholar Society.

Older brother Lucian, 18, was awarded a full college scholarship grant from Killeen Knight of Rotary. Lucian will pursue a degree in Building Maintenance.

Their mother, Katherine M. Rangamar, said another sibling, 9-year-old Joy, is also a standout in her class.

"My husband Herman and I are very proud of our kids' achievements and dedication to their education," Katherine said in an e-mail.

The family moved to the U.S. mainland in August 2008, primarily to avail of the best education opportunities for their three children.

All three attended Kagman High School and Kagman Elementary School.

Lucian, the eldest, is currently in his senior year at Pathways Academy under the Killeen Independent School District. He is currently enrolled at the Career & Technical Education Academy with a keen interest in Building Maintenance and will be graduating this summer June 6..

He has been selected to receive an Evening Rotary scholarship opportunity.

"He made the best impression of his goals and proved himself to be the best candidate for the Killeen Evening Rotary Grant Award," Katherine said of her son.

She said Lucian was interviewed by a panel of eight with questions such as why he should be the best recipient among 50 students with high achieving grades.

"This interview was very stiff but he came out on top. It's been awarded to only one recipient and Lucian impressed them all," she said.

A special presentation ceremony was held April 28 at the Shilo Inn in Killeen.

For her daughter Ruby, Katherine said her daughter's outstanding academic achievements and her hard work earned her a spot in the National High School Scholar Society, resulting in invitations to join other outstanding high school scholars groups.

Ruby R. Somorong and older brother Lucian recently earned scholarship grants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


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# Business

## US to borrow 46 cents for every dollar spent

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The government will have to borrow nearly 50 cents for every dollar it spends this year, exploding the record federal deficit past $1.8 trillion under new White House estimates. Budget office figures released Monday would add $89 billion to the 2009 red ink—increasing it to more than four times last year's all-time high as the government hands out billions more than expected for people who have lost jobs and takes in less tax revenue from people and companies making less money.

The unprecedented deficit figures flow from the deep recession, the Wall Street bailout and the cost of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus bill—as well as a seemingly embedded structural imbalance between what the government spends and what it takes in.

As the economy performs worse than expected, the deficit for the 2010 budget year beginning in October will worsen by $87 billion to $1.3 trillion, the White House says. The deterioration reflects lower tax revenues and higher costs for bank failures, unemployment benefits and food stamps.

AP

Copies of President Barack Obama's fiscal 2010 federal budget books are seen at the White House in Washington, Thursday, May 7, 20009.

## Fed boss: Bank exam results should buoy confidence

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The government's unprecedented "stress tests" of the nation's 19 largest banks should bolster Americans' battered confidence in U.S. banking system, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday as he defended the rigor of the exams.

The much-anticipated results, released Thursday, showed that 10 banks—including Bank of America Corp., Wells Fargo & Co. and Citigroup Inc.—must raise a total of $75 billion in new capital to absorb potential losses if the recession were to take a turn for the worst.

The remaining nine—JP-Morgan Chase & Co. and brokerage house Goldman Sachs Group Inc. among them—had enough capital to withstand a deeper recession.

"We hope and expect that the public and investors will take considerable comfort from the fact that our largest financial institutions have been evaluated in a comprehensive and rigorous fashion," Bernanke told a Fed conference on financial markets held at Jekyll Island, Ga.

Wall Street did get a boost last week as the stress tests helped to push prices for bank stocks higher. However, that rally fizzled out on Monday as bank shares dragged the market lower.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Six GM executives sell more than 200,000 shares

**DETROIT** (AP)—Six General Motors Corp. executives recently sold more than 200,000 shares of the automaker as GM moves toward issuing new equity to give large stakes to the U.S. government and a United Auto Workers retiree health care trust fund. Four group vice presidents and two vice chairmen sold nearly 205,000 shares Friday and Monday at prices ranging from $1.45 to $1.61 per share. GM shares closed Monday down 17 cents at $1.44. Spokeswoman Julie Gibson says the sales don't show a lack of faith in the company. She says GM has disclosed publicly that shareholders run the risk of significant dilution or possibly losing their investments in a potential bankruptcy filing. "They're not operating with any knowledge that other people don't have," she said. The executives had a short window of Friday through Tuesday to sell the shares, she added.

#### Ford offering 300M shares in public offering

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Ford Motor Co. said Monday it is launching a public offering of 300 million shares of common stock, which it will use in part to help fund its retiree health care trust. Ford, the only U.S. automaker that has not accepted government aid, said it will use the proceeds of the offering to pay for "general corporate purposes," including funding its Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association, or VEBA, with cash instead of stock. Dearborn, Mich.-based Ford owes $6.3 billion to its VEBA by the end of this year. In March, United Auto Workers members approved a new contract that, besides freezing wages and cutting benefits, allows Ford to use stock to make payments to the retiree health care trust.

#### Microsoft to raise $3.75B in first debt offering

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Microsoft Corp. priced a $3.75 billion debt offering on Monday, a first for the world's largest software maker. Microsoft said in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing that it is offering five, 10 and 30-year senior unsecured notes. In a press release, the company said it will sell $2 billion of 2.95 percent notes due June 1, 2014; $1 billion of 4.20 percent notes due June 1, 2019 and $750 million of 5.20 percent notes due June 1, 2039. The software maker said it will use proceeds from the sale for general corporate purposes, including possible acquisitions and stock buybacks. Last September, Microsoft's board authorized it to take on up to $6 billion in debt. Standard & Poor's Rating Services gave Microsoft an "AAA" corporate credit rating.

# Nation

## US fires top general in Afghanistan

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Barack Obama fired the top U.S. general in Afghanistan on Monday, replacing him with a former special forces commander in a quest for a more agile, unconventional approach in a war that has gone quickly downhill. With the Taliban resurgent, Obama's switch from Gen. David McKiernan to Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal suggests the new commander in chief wants major changes in addition to the additional troops he's ordering into Afghanistan to shore up the war effort.

McKiernan, on the job for less than a year, has repeatedly pressed for more forces. Although Obama has approved more than 21,000 additional troops this year, he has warned that the war will not be won by military means.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates echoed that view at a grim Pentagon news conference announcing the leadership overhaul. "As I have said many times before, very few of these problems can be solved by military means alone," he said. "And yet, from the military perspective, we can and must do better."

"It's time for new leadership and fresh eyes."

A new team of commanders will now be charged with applying Obama's revamped strategy for challenging an increasingly brutal and resourceful insurgency. The strategy, still a work in progress, relies on the kind of special forces and counter-insurgency tactics McChrystal knows well, as well as nonmilitary approaches to confronting the Taliban. It would hinge success in the seven-year-old war to political and other conditions across the border in Pakistan.

## Demjanjuk on plane to Germany

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Federal agents carrying John Demjanjuk in a wheelchair put him on a small jet Monday to be deported to Germany, where the retired autoworker is accused of being a Nazi death camp guard in World War II.

Demjanjuk, 89, arrived in an ambulance at Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport after spending several hours with U.S. immigration officials at a downtown federal building. Airport commissioner Khalid Bahhur confirmed Demjanjuk was on the plane and that its destination is Germany.

The deportation came four days after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider Demjanjuk's request to block deportation and about 3 1/2 years after he was last ordered deported.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk (pronounced dem-YAHN'-yuk) is wanted on a Munich arrest warrant that accuses him of 29,000 counts of accessory to murder as a guard at the Sobibor death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. The legal case spans three decades.

A German Justice Ministry spokesman, Ulrich Staudigl, said the retired autoworker was expected to be in Germany by Tuesday.

Demjanjuk denies Germany's accusations, saying he was held by the Germans as a Soviet prisoner of war and was never a camp guard. Demjanjuk's family fought deportation, arguing he is in poor health and might not survive the trans-Atlantic journey.

## Shuttle blasts off to repair Hubble telescope

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP)—Atlantis blasted off Monday for the Hubble Space Telescope on the most delicate and dangerous repair job ever in orbit—a mission so risky that for the first time a second shuttle stands ready to rescue the seven astronauts if something goes wrong.

It will be the last visit to the aging observatory, and the work will include five spacewalks in an especially high orbit strewn with space junk. The astronauts will try to fix equipment that was never designed to be tinkered with in space, and they will not have the option of using the international space station as a safe harbor in a crisis.

The improvements will extend the life of one of the space program's proudest achievements—a technological marvel that has yielded breathtaking pictures of distant galaxies and some of the celestial violence that shaped the universe.

"I have full confidence that they'll pull off a success and if they do, we'll have a Hubble for at least five, six, eight years more," said Ed Weiler, NASA's science mission chief.

The crew will replace Hubble's batteries and gyroscopes, install two cameras and take a crack at fixing two broken science instruments.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Former Catholic head of Milwaukee admits he's gay

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A Roman Catholic archbishop who resigned in 2002 over a sex and financial scandal involving a man describes his struggles with being gay in an upcoming memoir about his decades serving the church. Archbishop Rembert Weakland, former head of the Milwaukee archdiocese, said in an interview Monday that he wrote about his sexual orientation because he wanted to be candid about "how this came to life in my own self, how I suppressed it, how it resurrected again." Called "A Pilgrim in a Pilgrim Church: Memoirs of a Catholic Archbishop," the book is set to be released in June.

#### Drew Peterson arrest: What happens to the kids?

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Drew Peterson, charged in the death of his third wife and suspected in the disappearance of his fourth, soon might face another legal battle: a custody fight. The ex-cop had two children with Kathleen Savio, whom he's accused of killing, and another two with Stacy Peterson, who has been missing since 2007. Drew Peterson's adult son Stephen announced Monday that he has taken custody of the children, but relatives of Savio and Stacy Peterson are looking into whether they can change that. "We'd seen a lawyer a ways back and were told we'd have to wait until he was charged," said Pamela Bosco, a friend of Stacy Peterson who has acted as a spokeswoman for her family. "We have to go back to a lawyer and see what's available to us." "It's an issue that's moved to the front burner," said Martin Glink, an attorney representing Savio's father and sister, who filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Peterson shortly before his arrest last week. He added, however, that he hasn't talked about the issue with his clients or anyone else in the Savio family.

#### Lawyers: Ex-soldier deserves death for crimes

**PADUCAH, Ky.** (AP)—Federal prosecutors say a former soldier convicted of raping and murdering an Iraqi teenager and killing her family deserves a death sentence because the crimes were so heinous. Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa Ford asked jurors Monday to sentence former Pfc. Steven Dale Green to die. Defense attorneys say Green didn't act alone, and that none of the other soldiers involved faced such a harsh sentence. The 24-year-old Green, a former 101st Airborne Division soldier from Texas, was convicted last week in the 2006 attack on a 14-year-old girl and her family in Mahmoudiya, Iraq

Jurors are expected to hear testimony for much of the week before deciding if Green receives a death sentence or life in prison without parole.

# Asia

## US military: 44 Afghan cases of white phosphorus

**KABUL** (AP)—The U.S. accused Afghan militants Monday of using white phosphorus as a weapon in "reprehensible" attacks on U.S. forces and in civilian areas.

The accusation comes two months after an 8-year-old Afghan girl named Razia was wounded by white phosphorus in a battle between militants and NATO troops. Razia has received 10 skin grafts at the U.S. military hospital at Bagram. A U.S. military spokeswoman said her injuries could have been caused by either side.

U.S and NATO troops frequently use white phosphorus to illuminate targets and create smoke screens. But human rights groups denounce its use as a weapon, or over populated areas, for the severe burns it causes.

Also Monday, the Pentagon replaced the top U.S. and NATO general in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, as President Barack Obama tries to turn around a stalemated war. Replacing McKiernan will be Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who has had a top administrative job at the Joint Chiefs of Staff for less than a year.

The U.S. military declassified documents Monday showing at least 38 instances where militants had used white phosphorus in attacks or where weapons had been found in eastern Afghanistan, where the U.S. primarily operates. The NATO-led force supplied information on six other instances in the country.

The U.S. said militants used white phosphorus in improvised explosive attacks at least seven times since spring 2007, some in civilian areas. The documents showed 12 attacks where militants used white phosphorus in mortars or rockets, the majority of which came the last two years.

## China marks 1st anniversary of devastating quake

**CHENGDU, China** (AP)—China marked the first anniversary of last year's devastating Sichuan earthquake on Tuesday, as the struggle to rebuild vied with new threats from swine flu and economic woes.

The magnitude-7.9 temblor—the deadliest earthquake to hit China in decades—toppled villages and razed portions of Sichuan and two neighboring provinces, leaving nearly 90,000 people dead or missing. Another 5 million were left homeless.

President Hu Jintao was expected to attend commemorations in the quake zone and a grand ceremony was set for the epicenter of the quake in the destroyed town of Beichuan at shortly after 2:00 p.m. (0600 GMT), the time at which the quake struck.

Traffic was heavy outside Beichuan on Tuesday, where refugees from the disaster are living in temporary shelter and reconstruction work is based. Large numbers of tourists have been visiting the area in the run up to the disaster's anniversary, prompting calls in state media for visitors to be respectful of the feelings of those whose lives were ripped asunder.

Area residents held private memorial services on Monday, the day before their loved ones died in keeping with local tradition.

## Refugees flood camps as Pakistan presses Taliban

**MARDAN, Pakistan** (AP)—Men lined up in the baking sun and children held empty food bowls as hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis fled the battle between the army and the Taliban, raising the risk Monday that public support could turn against an offensive Washington sees as a must-win battle.

The U.S. announced $4.9 million worth of aid for the refugees, many of whom arrived in the parched camps empty-handed and questioning how they would survive.

"It's hell for us," said Zaida Bibi, 20, as she glanced around her new accommodations, a mostly bare tent in the Mardan area, its floor covered by a thin tarp that proved little cushion against the rugged earth.

At least 360,000 Pakistanis displaced by recent fighting have registered in camps and other centers since early May, the U.N. said. That's on top of some 500,000 people displaced by offensives that date to August 2008—though it's unclear how many of those remain refugees.

Most of the newly displaced are expected to stay with relatives or friends. But some 30,000 are settling into U.N. camps, spokeswoman Ariane Rummery said. The agency announced Monday it will airlift 120 tons of relief supplies to help refugees in the region.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Rebels say 47 killed in Sri Lanka hospital attack

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—A mortar shell struck the only functioning medical facility in Sri Lanka's northern war zone Tuesday, killing 47 patients and bystanders and wounding more than 50 others, the rebels and a health worker in the area said. The attack came after a weekend of heavy shelling that killed hundreds of civilians in the area. The military has denied accusations that it was still shelling the tiny coastal strip still under rebel control, which is packed with an estimated 50,000 civilians. Rebel spokesman Seevaratnam Puleedevan told The Associated Press that a shell hit the hospital Tuesday morning. "They are still counting the dead bodies," he said. A health worker at the makeshift hospital confirmed the attack, saying one mortar shell landed in the admissions ward that had been set up in a temporary shelter about 7:30 a.m., killing 47 patients and bystanders and sending patients fleeing for their lives.

#### Japan's opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa resigns

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's top opposition leader announced Monday that he will resign to keep a political funding scandal from pulling down his party in upcoming parliamentary elections. Ichiro Ozawa, head of the Democratic Party of Japan, told a news conference he had decided to resign because he does not want the scandal involving one of his aides to cloud the elections, which must be held by Sept. 10. "I deeply apologize," he said. "I must do this for myself, for the people and for my party." The announcement was a major embarrassment for the Democrats, who surged ahead of Prime Minister Taro Aso's ruling party in recent surveys and had been tipped by some analysts as being in good position to win—and possibly take over power—if elections are called soon.

#### Suu Kyi health improving, her party says

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP)—The health of detained Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has improved after she suffered from dehydration and low blood pressure last week, her party said Tuesday. One of her medics, Dr. Pyone Moe Ei, was allowed to visit Suu Kyi, 63, at her lakeside home in Yangon on Monday afternoon. The doctor spent nearly five hours there and administered an intravenous drip, said Nyan Win, spokesman for the National League for Democracy. "The doctor said Daw Suu's health has improved but she still suffers from cramps. The doctor has prescribed necessary medicines," Nyan Win said. "Daw" is a term of respect used for older women in Myanmar. Nyan Win last week said Pyone Moe Ei reported that Suu Kyi had not eaten for three or four days and was suffering from low blood pressure and dehydration.

# World

## American kills 5 fellow soldiers at clinic in Iraq

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—An American soldier opened fire at a counseling center on a military base Monday, killing five fellow soldiers before being taken into custody, the U.S. command and Pentagon officials said.

Although it was unclear what prompted the shooting, the incident draws attention to the issue of combat stress and morale after six years of war as the mission of the 130,000-strong force transforms to one of training and mentoring the Iraqis.

Attacks on fellow soldiers, known as fraggings, were not uncommon during the Vietnam war but are believed to be rare in Iraq and Afghanistan.

President Barack Obama said in a statement that he was "shocked and deeply saddened" by the report, adding that "my heart goes out to the families and friends" of all those involved "in this horrible tragedy."

This Sept. 11 2008, file photo, shows U.S. Army soldiers saluting American flags at a ceremony at Camp Liberty in Baghdad on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008.

AP

## Swine flu spreads in world; Mexico opens schools

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Mexico welcomed millions of children back to school Monday with masks, thermometers and globs of hand sanitizer, as scientists estimated the new strain of swine flu could have sickened 23,000 people before anyone realized it was an epidemic.

At least 61 people have been killed by swine flu around the world, and the World Health Organization has confirmed 4,800 cases, including the first in mainland China. China scrambled Monday to find and quarantine more than 200 people on the infected man's flight from the U.S., though the University of Missouri campus where he had been studying planned no special precautions.

A study published Monday in the journal Science estimated Mexico alone may have had 23,000 cases by April 23, the day it announced the epidemic. The study estimates swine flu kills between 0.4 percent and 1.4 percent of its victims, but lead author Neil Ferguson of Imperial College, London, said the data remain incomplete.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Pope, in Israel, confronts dark history of Germany

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI confronted the dark history of his native Germany on the first day of his visit to Israel on Monday, shaking the hands of six Holocaust survivors and saying victims of the genocide "lost their lives but they will never lose their names." Benedict's attempts to ease tensions with Jews after his recent decision to lift the excommunication of a Holocaust denying bishop appeared to enjoy only partial success. The top two officials at Israel's Holocaust memorial faulted the pope for not apologizing nor using the words "murder" or "Nazis" during a speech at the site. Nor did the pope make any discernible progress in resolving long-standing differences between the Vatican and Israel over whether the wartime pontiff, Pius XII, did enough to save Jews during the Holocaust. Still, the pope has seldom been as emotional as he was Monday when he laid a wreath and rekindled the "eternal flame" at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

#### US journalist freed by Iran, reunited with parents

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—An American journalist imprisoned on espionage charges in Iran for four months was freed Monday and reunited with her smiling, tearful parents—a move that clears a major obstacle to President Barack Obama's attempts at dialogue with the top U.S. adversary in the Middle East. The United States had said the charges against Roxana Saberi, a 32-year-old dual Iranian-American citizen, were baseless and repeatedly demanded her release. Hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad could also win some domestic political points a month before he faces a re-election challenge from reformers who seek to ease Iran's bitter rivalry with the United States. Saberi's Iranian-born father, Reza Saberi, wiped away tears, then flashed a broad smile as he and his wife, Akiko, arrived at Tehran's Evin prison—notorious for holding political prisoners—to meet their daughter. Akiko Saberi, who is of Japanese origin, wore a flowered headscarf.

#### Thousands flee Somalia's capital after fighting

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** (AP)—Thousands fled their homes in Somalia's capital Monday after at least 35 were killed over the weekend in some of the worst fighting in weeks, while masked Islamic fighters were seen heading toward Mogadishu. An Associated Press reporter saw people fleeing in taxis, pickups and trucks stacked with suitcases, mattresses, furniture and other belongings. Residents in northern Mogadishu reported sporadic fighting but there were no immediate reports of casualties Monday. "Some of them do not know where to go. They need urgent help," said Ali Sheik Yasin Fadhaa, the vice chairman of the Elman Human Rights Organization. He said staff throughout Mogadishu had counted 5,200 people fleeing Monday. A total of 17,200 people have fled the capital since Saturday, Fadhaa said.

# Campus Life

## Parents learn how to read aloud to their kids

Four Head Start centers recently completed their second cycle of the Motheread/Fatheread adult course for school year 2008-2009.

The Motheread/Fatheread adult course is a reading literacy program that help parents explore stories and books as a way to learn about the world they live in. After a once a-week, eight-week sessions, parent participants will become familiar with many ways to use stories to improve children's academic skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, comprehension and critical thinking.

In the spirit of "Stepping Up to the Plate," three male participants took the challenge of getting more involved at school and promoting the general well-being of school age children by joining the Motheread/Fatheread adult course session at Kagman Head Start Center. A total four participants completed the adult course at this site on April 21, 2009. The participants for this cycle at Kagman Head Start center were Cisco T. Cruz, Jack Pangelinan, Mariano Mangarero, and Lucia Mangarero, while the course sessions were facilitated by Celine Romolor-Route, Motheread certified trainer.

It was Certificate Presentation Day at the San Antonio Head Start Center on April 22, 2009. Bringing their homemade props and makeshift sound effects, seven parent participants role-played the story of *The Three Billy Goat-Gruffs* by Ellen Appleby, and Eagle Book No. 4 *Tricky Treats* by Georgia Perez to an audience of 30 persons present. The awardees were Estrella Nimer, Angeles Carandang, Janet Agcaoli, Jeny Agcaoli, Marilou Canilao, Rose Clemente, and Erlinda Carandang. The successful completion of the course sessions at this site was made possible with the consistent assistance of San Antonio Head Start teachers Bianca Kosiba and Quen Besong, who provided learning activities for the children of the parents attending the Motheread class session. Viola Deleon Guerrero, Motheread program coordinator, facilitated the course session.

The storybook *Wings: A Tale of Two Chickens* by James Marshall was brought to life by the parent participants at Oleai Head Start Center as part of their closing activity on April 23, 2009. Participants wore chicken and wolf masks, and changed the sound of their voices to realistically portray the characters in the story. The children and Head Start staff present at the center happily received the comical yet delightful performance. Parent participants were Anand Katta, Sangeetha Katta, Minerva Mike, Betry Mike, Kathy Camoral, and Edgar Aguirre. Motheread certified trainer, Bryan Manabat, facilitated the course session.

At the Garapan Head Start Center, eight parents gave an exciting group read-aloud presentation of the storybook *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle to the enjoyment of the children, guests, and Head Start staff present at the center. On April 28, 2009, participants received Motheread certificates of achievement for completing the eight-week, once-a-week sessions. They are Edna Sangalang, Jose Jimenez Jr., Yu Li, Geraldine Cordero, Virginia Cau, Shonkor Bishas, Josephine Marquez, and Chrisnoen Marquez. Viola Deleon Guerrero, program coordinator, facilitated the Garapan center course session.

The following are thoughts shared by some of the participants:

"…reading aloud enhances children's language skills."

"…and the Motheread course made me schedule evenings for my children to read aloud, which is very positive for families."

"…gave me new ways in how to be closer to my kids, even when very little time spent with them."

Head Start program director Keiko Yamagata assisted the Motheread program coordinators in presenting the certificates to the participants at the four Head Start sites that completed the Motheread adult course.

She also highlighted at each course completion ceremony the praiseworthy involvement of parent participants in the educational well-being of their children in the Head Start program. The successful completion of the course sessions would not be possible without the full support of the administrators, site supervisors, teachers, and staff of the CNMI Head Start program.

The Motheread® Program is a nationally acclaimed family literacy program sponsored by the NMI Council of the Humanities in partnership with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Public School System, and other generous donors. ***(PR)***

Garapan Head Start Center. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Head Start Center. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Antonio Head Start Center. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Head Start Center. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## More apply to military academies

By ASHLEY HALSEY III
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis had a 50 percent jump in applicants this year, eclipsing both the Military Academy at West Point and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, which also experienced significant increases.

The lure of a free education in a difficult economy might be a factor, but Navy spokeswoman Judy Campbell credited the Naval Academy's two-year-old outreach program to minorities and high school students who live in parts of the country that have been underrepresented for much of the increase. One result of that outreach, she said, is that the current freshman class is the most diverse in the school's history, with 27 percent of its members counted as minorities.

West Point, with 11,091 applicants, and the Air Force Academy, with 9,812, each reported almost a 10 percent increase in those seeking entrance to the prestigious schools. But Annapolis garnered the most: 15,388 applications. The three schools have generally received about the same number in previous years, though the Air Force usually trails.

"For Hispanics and African Americans, this may not have been the first place they thought of," Campbell said. "We've been doing an awful lot of outreach. Our glee clubs and our gospel choir go out on tour, and they take time to visit schools. And when midshipmen went home over Thanksgiving, they went and gave talks on the academy at their old high schools."

In the years immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, applications to the service academies declined. But any aversion to combat appears to be waning. A quarter of the Naval Academy's graduating class next month will enter the Marine Corps, with many of those new young officers destined for service in Iraq or Afghanistan. Almost as many will be trained as Navy pilots, who also are engaged in combat.

Campbell said the academy has expanded its summer program, which is offered by the other academies as well, to accommodate more potential applicants.

A West Point spokesman said the Army has also worked to attract more applicants in general and minority applicants in particular. It used unconventional means such as airport billboards and working closely with the Congressional Black Caucus, Frank DeMaro said.

"The downturn in the economy probably also has helped," DeMaro said. "And there has been less negative press about Iraq."

Each academy will induct a class of 1,200 to 1,300 this summer, so the surfeit of applicants will result in at least 30,000 applicants being turned down. Those who stay commit to a minimum of five years in the military in exchange for a free education.

# Life & Style

## Gilles Marini dominates 'Dancing' semifinals show

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Gilles Marini may be the front-runner for the "Dancing With the Stars" mirrorball trophy.

The 33-year-old actor earned a perfect score of 60 points from judges Monday for his two dances in the semifinal round.

Marini and his professional partner, Cheryl Burke, wowed judges with their waltz and salsa. Carrie Ann Inaba called the couple's waltz "sweet, subtle perfection." Head judge Len Goodman said their salsa left him "almost speechless."

"I wish I had an 11th paddle," he said, referring to the scoring paddles judges raise after each performance.

Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson came in second place with 56 points out of 60. She and her partner, Mark Ballas, earned a perfect score of 30 for their Argentine tango. Goodman said the 17-year-old gold medalist "danced with a maturity I didn't expect," adding that the performance was her best yet. Judges called the pair's jive "strong" and "wonderful," but gave it 26 points out of 30.

"The Bachelor" reject Melissa Rycroft, who fractured a rib during dance practice two weeks ago, earned a combined 55 points for her quickstep and chacha with partner Tony Dovolani. Judge Bruno Tonioli said the couple's quickstep "wasn't as exhilarating and crispy and zingy as it could have been." Goodman called their chacha "lackluster."

AP

In this photo released by ABC, Cheryl Burke, left, and Gilles Marini perform on Dancing with the Stars Monday, May 4, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Rodeo champ Ty Murray, who narrowly escaped elimination last week, finished in last place Monday with 48 points out of 60. He and partner Chelsie Hightower performed the samba and the Viennese waltz. While neither earned a coveted "10" from judges, they praised his efforts throughout the ABC dance-off.

Goodman said, "No one has struggled more than you and no one, definitely, has tried more than you throughout this series to become a dancer," while Inaba named him "the most valuable player of season eight."

One celebrity contestant will be eliminated Tuesday when viewer votes are combined with judges' scores. A new "Dancing" champ will be crowned on ABC on May 19.

## Miss California keeping title...for now

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—Officials of the Miss California USA pageant strongly criticized some of the actions of titleholder Carrie Prejean on Monday but said it's not their decision whether she should be stripped of her crown.

Co-executive directors Keith Lewis and Shanna Moakler told a press conference that only Miss USA pageant owner Donald Trump can make that decision.

Prejean

Trump plans to hold a press conference Tuesday in New York City. One of Prejean's publicists, Melany Ethridge of A. Larry Ross Communications, said her client would be at Tuesday's event and would issue a statement then.

Miss USA officials have said Prejean has been "unavailable" and so in the meantime they have appointed the state pageant's runner-up, Tami Farrell, as a "Beauty of California Ambassador" to fulfill any duties the winner normally would handle.

Lewis said that if Trump allows Prejean to retain her crown, state pageant officials would welcome her back and encourage her to take part in her normal duties.

"We're still going to be able to fulfill our duties no matter if Mr. Trump offers a second chance or utters his famous line from `The Apprentice,'" Lewis said (meaning, of course, "You're fired").

Prejean, 21, of San Diego, created controversy during the Miss USA pageant when she answered a judge's question by saying she believes marriage should only be between a man and a woman.

The state pageant has been investigating whether she violated her contract by making public appearances with groups opposed to same-sex marriage. Prejean also failed to reveal that she posed in her underwear as a teenager.

Moakler said Prejean's failure to reveal the photo to organizers shows she entered the pageant under false pretenses.

"For us the severity of nudity in the one photo that Carrie Prejean has admitted was hers is not the issue. The fact that she entered the pageant and admitted it, is," Moakler said.

Death and Funeral Announcement

RAMON TYDINGCO FEJERAN

*"Bo"; "Ta Bo"; or "Ramon Adu"*

**Born: September 18, 1943, of Dandan, Saipan (former resident of Mangilao, Guam)**
**Peacefully joined his Creator on May 6, 2009, at the age of 65.**

**In his new life, Ramon now joins his**
**Parents:** Jose Cruz Fejeran & Maria Tydingco Fejeran
**Mother-in-Law:** Isabel Anderson Iglesias Calvo
**Sister & Brother-in-Law:** Natividad Tydingco Fejeran & Zacarias Muna Tudela
**Brother & Sister-in-Law:** Isidro Tydingco Fejeran & Rosa Maliti Fejeran
**Brothers-in-Law:** Donald Iglesias Calvo & Roderick Iglesias Calvo
**Sister-in-Law:** Hope Calvo

Ramon's loving memory will forever be treasured by his wife, children, and other members of his family:
**Wife: Edith Calvo Fejeran**
**Children, In-Laws and Grandchildren:** **Gerard Calvo** & Lydia Perez Calvo (Fejeran) (Jacilyn Terese), **Jason Paul Calvo Fejeran** & Josephine Abad Fejeran (Janessa Renae & Jalene Audrey Fejeran; Richard; & Jasmin), **Ryan Thomas Calvo Fejeran** & Joann Delin Fejeran (Jay Gerald & Shayanne Nicole Amber), Ft. Worth, TX. **Eric Vohn Calvo Fejeran** & April Sablan Tedtaotao (Evie Marie, Avin Michael & Alexa Marie), **Brandon Keith Calvo Fejeran**



**His Brothers and Sisters-in-Law: Moses T.** & Ana Fejeran; **Benigno T.** & Amalia **Fejeran**; **Felipe T.** & Carmen A. **Fejeran**; Sophia M. Fejeran; Maria T. Fejeran; & Marlene Fejeran

**His Father-in-Law: Jacinto Blas Calvo, Chalan Pago, Guam**

**His Brothers-in-Law & Sisters-in-Law:** Anthony I. Calvo; Michael I. Calvo; Jeannette C. & Juan Blas; Judith C. & William Roy Maahs; Sharon C. & Edward Rodriguez; Maria Salas Calvo & Mary Artero Calvo

**Caregivers: Luz B.** & Romel **Alcausin; Ofelia Mendoza**

**God Children: Patrici o Fejeran Tudela; Esther Fejeran Sound; Mark Seman Fejeran**

He will also be missed by his numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mass for Ramon Tydingco Fejeran is being offered nightly at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary.

Last Respects may be paid at San Vicente Church on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Interment services will follow at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are humbly and profoundly appreciated.

Thank and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

**Edith Calvo Fejeran, Children & Family**

# Star-crossed lovers: 'Trek' ship mates lock lips

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—William Shatner and Nichelle Nichols shared TV's first interracial kiss on "Star Trek" in the 1960s.

If you haven't yet seen the new big-screen "Trek" and don't want to know who actually kissed Nyota Uhura before James T. Kirk, read no further: Zoe Saldana's update of the comely communications officer has a boyfriend, and it's not the dashing captain.

It's Kirk's future best friend forever, the coldly logical Vulcan Spock (Zachary Quinto), a member of a race whose males supposedly get the itch to mate only once every seven years.

But in J.J. Abrams' relaunch of "Trek," Spock and Uhura definitely have a thing going.

"This is one of those changes that obviously we knew was going to incite a lot of potential rioting in the theaters," said Alex Kurtzman, who co-wrote the screenplay with Roberto Orci.

There's a hint early on that Spock and Uhura are more than just Starfleet colleagues. Then midway through the film, after Spock has suffered horrible personal loss, Uhura gets him alone and plants consoling kisses and caresses on the pointy-eared Vulcan.

Later, they go public with their romance in front of the abashed Kirk (Chris Pine), who had been pursuing Uhura for himself through the whole movie.

"It provides a tremendous sense of levity between Kirk and Spock and between Kirk and Uhura. But I think between Spock and Uhura, it offers a kind of depth and a complexity to those characters that maybe we didn't get a chance to see in the same way before," Quinto said. "I feel like Uhura ultimately represents a kind of canvas onto which Spock is able to project a lot of the emotions that he's unable to express in a more conventional way."

Quinto

Saldana

There is also a certain logic to Spock falling for a human: Spock is only half-Vulcan, his father having married a human himself. Co-writer Orci, a lifelong "Trek" fan, always felt there was an undercurrent of attraction between Nimoy's Spock and Nichols' Uhura.

"There's some hints in the original series of some flirtations between them," Orci said.

And Saldana herself figures that for serious, career-minded Uhura, Spock is more her type than an on-the-prowl guy like Kirk.

"I'm pretty sure that Uhura would choose a night in and studying 10 times over going out and partying it up and hooking up with a boy," Saldana said. "Who other than Spock to come in and sort of possess all the qualities that she sees in herself, that she would like to continue to obtain, and that she would want to see in a man? I almost feel like Kirk would be the opposite and be someone she just wouldn't go for."

The filmmakers thought it also might humanize Kirk a bit. Shatner's Kirk bedded human and alien beauties week after week on the TV show, but Pine's Kirk winds up humbled when he sees Spock and Uhura lock lips, particularly since he and the Vulcan have gotten off to a contentious start.

"It makes Kirk a little more accessible," Pine said. "He's the guy we've all been. He wants the chick who doesn't want you. He's trying really hard. She just kind of laughs in his face and goes off with the other guy. I relate to that. I'm sure everyone does."

The original Spock found the romance between Quinto and Saldana's characters deeply moving.

"Beautiful, beautiful. Wonderful," said Leonard Nimoy, who reprises his role as the older Spock in the movie. "Both of them played it so well. They were both so available to each other. Very touching, really."

# Tearful Yoko Ono talks about John Lennon exhibit

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A new John Lennon exhibit is particularly emotional for his widow, Yoko Ono. Besides Lennon's guitars, letters and other personal effects, it also includes a paper bag containing the bloody clothes from the night he was shot to death.

Ono received the items from the medical examiner in December 1980, when the former Beatle was gunned down in New York City at age 40.

"It was hard to include," Ono said. "And I thought it might be criticized as well."

But ultimately, Ono thought it was important to let people see the effects of gun violence.

The Lennon items are part of a new exhibit that will launch Tuesday at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex. "John Lennon: The New York Years" includes Lennon's famous New York City T-shirt, his upright piano from his Dakota apartment, and a posthumous 1981 Grammy Award for the couple's album "Double Fantasy."

"I know it's a kind of a sad and very poignant kind of paradox I think that he loved this place so much and this is where he was killed," she said in an interview after a news conference for the exhibit.

There are also letters documenting Lennon's long-fought battle against deportation in the early 1970s, both from the government and supporters. Glass cases also contain a dozen or so handwritten lyrics.

Ono says Lennon's death still haunts her nearly 30 years later: "I still get affected by it."

"If it (his death) was a slow a process we could have talked about it or something," she added, holding back tears.

The exhibit will be on display throughout 2009.

AP

Yoko Ono poses in front of an image of her late husband John Lennon at the opening of a new exhibit "John Lennon: The New York City Years" at The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex NYC on Monday, May 11, 2009 in New York.

# Sutherland's lawyer says actor wasn't instigator

**NEW YORK** (AP)—An investigation by New York City officials into a charge Kiefer Sutherland head-butted a fashion designer at a nightclub will show the star of TV's "24" was not a wrongdoer or instigator, his attorney said Monday. Sutherland was charged Thursday with third-degree assault in the incident a week ago at a nightclub at the trendy Mercer Hotel in the SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan.

The designer, Jack McCollough of the high-end Proenza Schouler fashion house, claims Sutherland broke his nose after an argument at about 2 a.m. Tuesday. Police are also planning to question actress Brooke Shields as a witness.

Representatives for the three celebrities worked to clear up rumors after initially refusing to comment to the Associated Press.

"We are troubled by the untruthful and self-serving information circulating regarding Kiefer Sutherland and events of last Monday evening," attorney Michael Miller said in a statement. "Out of respect for this law enforcement process, Kiefer Sutherland will not be making any comment."

Representatives for McCollough said the designer's injuries were more serious than what was initially noted on the police report. McCollough's nose was broken in several places and he had to seek medical treatment after the altercation. The police report says he suffered a cut on his nose.

Sutherland

McCollough

Shields' attorney, Gerald Lefcourt, wouldn't comment on whether she had been interviewed by police in the case. He said that many statements had been falsely attributed to Shields regarding the incident, and were likely made by people not at the scene.

"While at the party, she was bumped into by Jack McCollough and Kiefer Sutherland became concerned," Lefcourt said in a statement. "Kiefer has always been a gentleman in her company. Both Jack and Kiefer are friends of Ms. Shields and she regrets this unfortunate situation."

No decision has been made on whether the New York City charge will affect Sutherland's probation for a drunken-driving conviction in Los Angeles.

Sutherland pleaded no contest in October 2007 to driving with a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit of 0.08 percent. He served 30 days in jail, in addition to 18 days for violating probation in a 2004 drunken-driving arrest.

Sutherland, who plays dashing federal counterterrorism agent Jack Bauer on "24," won a Golden Globe and an Emmy for best actor, and has been nominated multiple times for his work on the wildly popular show. The seventh season airs on Mondays.

# Lincoln Center celebrates 50th anniversary

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The New York Philharmonic played Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" for Lincoln Center's 50th anniversary on Monday, recreating the piece that Leonard Bernstein conducted at the arts complex's 1959 groundbreaking.

The anniversary celebration began in the gleaming new 1,100-seat Alice Tully Hall, which reopened in February after a $159 million, 22-month renovation that has been praised for its superb acoustics and design. Trumpet players from the Juilliard School of Music performed in front of the hall as hundreds as guests streamed inside.

The brass section of the Philharmonic, the nation's oldest orchestra, performed Copland's work under the baton of its new music director, Alan Gilbert. The program also included Gilbert conducting the Juilliard Orchestra playing the overture from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro."

Violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman performed the final movement from Mendelssohn's "Octet in E-flat, Op. 20" with alumni from the music program he founded.

Other performances included soprano Audra McDonald singing a medley of Gershwin's "Of Thee I Sing" with "America the Beautiful." She also sang "Somedays," a poem by James Baldwin set to music by Steven Marzullo.

Jazz legend Wynton Marsalis and members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra concluded the festivities with a performance of his composition, "The Magic Hour."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York Sen. Charles Schumer were among the 800 people who attended.

# Simon Cowell says Adam Lambert will be the next 'Idol'

**CHICAGO** (AP)—"American Idol" judge Simon Cowell says he thinks Adam Lambert will win this season of the popular singing competition show. Cowell told Oprah Winfrey on Monday's episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that his money is on Lambert because the contestant is fearless, unique and "he's got swagger." Winfrey also featured Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle, who is competing on "Britain's Got Talent." Boyle told Winfrey she's "loving every second" of her newfound fame.

The 47-year-old Boyle became famous after she shocked judges and the audience with her version of "I Dreamed a Dream" from the musical "Les Miserables."

One of those judges was Cowell, who wished Boyle congratulations and wished her "best of luck" on the rest of the competition.

AP

This image provided by the US Marine Corps shows Adam Lambert, one of the three finalists for American Idol and a San Diego native, singing the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" during his visit to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Bob Hope Theater, Friday May 8, 2009.

# Michael Landon's eldest son dead at 60

**WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.** (AP)—Mark Landon, an actor and eldest son of "Little House on the Prairie" star Michael Landon, was found dead Monday at his home. He was 60.

The cause of death was not immediately clear but there was no evidence of foul play, said Sgt. David Infante of the Los Angeles County sheriff's office.

Mark Landon, among Michael Landon's nine children, appeared in three movies, including "Us"—a CBS television movie written and directed by his father in 1991 just before he died of cancer at age 54. The film was a pilot intended to be another series for Michael Landon. It aired a few months after his death.

Michael Landon also starred in such shows as "Bonanza" and "Highway to Heaven."

# 'Titanic' stars help ship's last survivor

AP

In this Friday, April 17, 1998 file photo, Millvina Dean smiles as she signs a Titanic movie poster at the Titanic Historical Society's convention in Springfield, Mass.

**LONDON** (AP)—"Titanic" stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet have pledged to help the last survivor of the sinking of the ocean liner. The stars say they have thrown their support behind a fund that would subsidize Millvina Dean's nursing home fees.

Dean was 2 months old when the Titanic sank beneath the waves on the night of April 14, 1912. She has been living at a nursing home in the English city of Southampton since she broke her hip about three years ago but has struggled to pay the fees.

In October she sold several Titanic mementoes to raise cash.

DiCaprio and Winslet said in a statement that they hoped Dean could rest easier knowing that her future was secure. The Millvina Fund was launched Monday in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

# Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth set for 'Addams Family'

Neuwirth

**NEW YORK** (AP)—"The Addams Family" has found its merry macabre menagerie for Broadway.

The show's producers say Nathan Lane will play Gomez and Bebe Neuwirth will be Morticia in the musical based on the popular goulish cartoons in The New Yorker.

"The Addams Family" will open April 8 at a theater to be announced. Previews begin March 4 after a pre-Broadway engagement in Chicago. Also in the cast are Kevin Chamberlin as Uncle Fester, Jackie Hoffman as Grandma and Zachary James as Lurch.

The show features music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa (LIP'-ah), while Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice (EL'-iss), who wrote "Jersey Boys," will provide the book.

# Oprah Winfrey to say goodbye to Dr. Oz

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's in-house medical and health expert is leaving his spot as a regular on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for his own syndicated program.

Winfrey will bid Dr. Mehmet (meh-MEHT') Oz farewell on Tuesday's episode of her talk show. His program, "The Dr. Oz Show," is to debut Sept. 14.

Oz has been featured on Winfrey's show for five years and 55 episodes. He would often offer diet tips or discuss life-threatening diseases.

Tuesday's show ends with Oz and Winfrey raising a champagne toast.

According to Oz's biography on Oprah.com, the best-selling author and heart surgeon is a surgery professor at Columbia University and directs the Cardiovascular Institute and Complementary Medicine Program at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

AP

In this photo taken April 23, 2009 and provided by Harpo Productions, Inc., talk-show host Oprah Winfrey raises a champagne toast to Dr. Mehmet Oz, her in-house medical and health expert, during taping of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in Chicago.

# Pastor's ministrations give concern instead of comfort

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** My father, who is a deacon at his church, has cancer. I have pitched in to help Mom take him to treatments out of town. Each time he has an outpatient treatment, the pastor of his church shows up and stays with us the entire time—sometimes all day long.

Abby, he follows me around like a lost puppy, and it is clear that he's attracted to me—even referring to me once as his "girlfriend." I am repulsed by this reference as I am happily married to a wonderful man. This man is married, too.

I want to be there for Dad during his treatments, but I don't want to make small talk with someone who is beginning to creep me out. How do I tell him to stay away without making a huge scene?

MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL

**DEAR MAKES: Ask your father whom he would like to have with him when he's getting his treatments—you or his pastor. Then explain exactly why. If your father feels he needs the pastor's support during this difficult time, then the pastor can transport him and your mother to the treatment center. If your parents would rather have you there, then you, they or all of you together can inform the love-struck pastor that his services are appreciated but unnecessary.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently received my federal tax return refund and deposited the check into my personal savings account. Abby, that check is in my name only because I get that money for my daughter from a previous marriage. I have always put the refund into my own account.

When my husband discovered that I hadn't deposited the check into the joint account, he became furious. He behaved like a child throwing a tantrum, ranting and raving about not having access to the money without my consent.

My husband is now threatening to sell the house if I don't give in to his demand. My husband has his own personal and business accounts. Should I give in and put the funds into our joint account or stand firm and let him play out his threats?

DISCONCERTED IN DENVER

**DEAR DISCONCERTED: Do not move the money without more information. Something has happened in your husband's life, and he has hidden it from you. Whether it is business-related or personal, I can't say. Under no circumstances must you give in to blackmail. You deserve to know the truth so you can deal with it as a couple. If your husband and his CPA are not forthcoming, then you should consult a lawyer.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have been invited to two weddings on the same day. Both families are close to us, but they do not know each other. My son is in one of the weddings. One is in town; the other is two hours away.

We knew about these weddings prior to being invited, but one of the couples changed their date. We thought we could split up for the day—I would go to one and my husband would go to the other. We don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. I am stumped. Abby, what are your thoughts?

WEDDING WOES IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR WOES: Thanks for asking. I think you and your husband should attend the wedding of the couple who invited you first. Because one couple changed their wedding date and created a conflict, you have a perfectly acceptable reason for being unable to attend.**

---

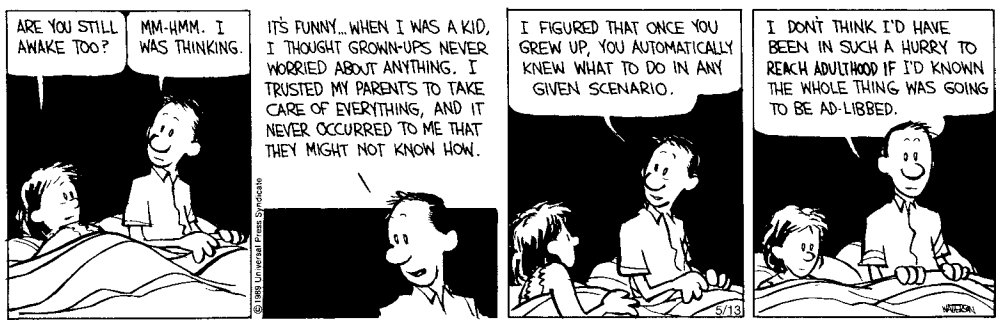
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ARE YOU STILL AWAKE TOO?
MM-HMM. I WAS THINKING.
IT'S FUNNY... WHEN I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT GROWN-UPS NEVER WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING. I TRUSTED MY PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, AND IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW.
I FIGURED THAT ONCE YOU GREW UP, YOU AUTOMATICALLY KNEW WHAT TO DO IN ANY GIVEN SCENARIO.
I DON'T THINK I'D HAVE BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY TO REACH ADULTHOOD IF I'D KNOWN THE WHOLE THING WAS GOING TO BE AD-LIBBED.
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate
5/13
WATTERSON

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I WONDER IF I MAY BE SERIOUS FOR A MOMENT
WOO! HOO! WOO WOO!!
APPARENTLY NOT
www.garfield.com
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 5-13

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE KIDS WANT A DOG.
YOU KNOW WE'LL END UP TAKING CARE OF IT.
I KNOW. BUT I'VE READ IF WE PRETEND TO HAVE A DOG FOR TWO WEEKS AND THEY ACTUALLY DO ALL THE WORK...
THEN WE'LL KNOW THEY'RE COMMITTED ENOUGH TO HAVE ONE.
MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GOOD IDEA FOR SOME PARENTS WE KNOW.
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www.gocomics.com
5-13

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Bill
4 Garden intruder
8 Cougar
12 Exist
13 Bullets and such
14 Unyielding
15 Meadow
16 Country quaintness
18 Yuletide rendition
20 A billion years
21 Conks on the noggin
24 Halos
28 Poison level
32 Witty one
33 Mess up
34 Gold measure
36 Cowboy's sweetie
37 Bound
39 Keri Russell series
41 Trustworthy
43 Shed tears
44 Shelter
46 In a stunned state
50 Means of betrayal
55 "— Got a Secret"
56 Needle case
57 Sharpen
58 Fresh
59 Flex
60 On the — (unfriendly)
61 See 43-Across

**DOWN**
1 Body powder
2 Vicinity
3 Tolerate
4 Spelling whiz?
5 Ostrich's kin
6 Ambulance abbr.
7 Love not wisely but too well
8 Park outing
9 Spoonbender Geller
10 Witticism
11 Whatever amount
17 Charged bit
19 Kimono closer
22 Chanteuse Edith
23 Scatter about
25 Creche trio
26 Unruly kid
27 Without doing anything
28 Reveal
29 Sandwich treat
30 Picture of health?
31 Eli's campus
35 1960s T-shirt patterns
38 Wan
40 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
42 Mainlander's memento
45 Vocal comeback
47 Galvanizing matter
48 Eternally
49 Moist, in the morning
50 Society newbie
51 Multipurpose truck
52 Bit of wordplay
53 Debtor's letters
54 Stick with a kick

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | E | U | D | ■ | A | V | O | N | ■ | C | A | D |
| E | A | S | E | ■ | M | E | N | U | ■ | R | U | E |
| B | R | A | C | K | E | T | E | D | ■ | A | N | N |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | E | N | O | ■ | N | A | S | T | Y |
| G | R | E | E | N | ■ | ■ | S | I | G | H | ■ | ■ |
| R | I | L | E | ■ | J | A | C | K | E | T | E | D |
| I | C | E | ■ | R | E | B | U | S | ■ | E | R | A |
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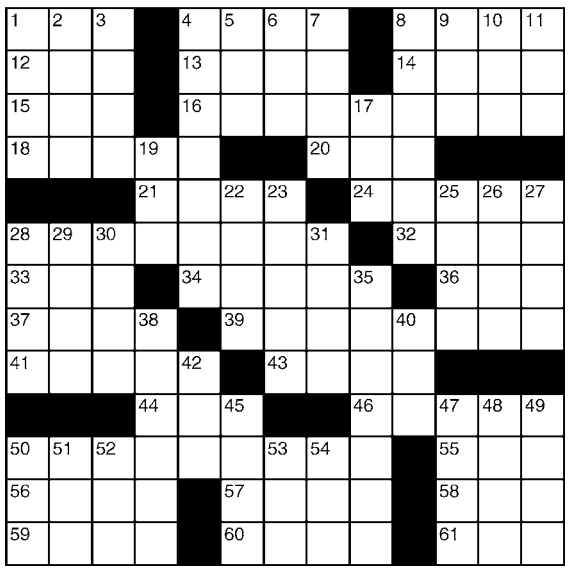
Yesterday's answer 5-13



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Stephen Colbert, 45; Julianne Phillips, 49; Stevie Wonder, 59; Beatrice Arthur, 87

**Happy Birthday**: Your lifestyle and friendships need a revamping. Things will not get done without a healthy push from you. Take care of pending issues you have with loved ones and find ways to raise interest in your ideas and plans. Don't give in to talk of doom and gloom. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 25, 33, 35, 47

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Don't count on anything based on hearsay. Get specifics if you want to take advantage of something that may fit into your plans. Emotional matters will crop up, affecting your ability to make wise decisions. ✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Concentrate on your best assets and you will utilize your talents to the fullest. Making new friends, networking and learning vital information that will help you excel are highlighted. Don't let someone you love stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): You'll lose money if you aren't careful about your spending habits. Do not give, donate or squander money. Use your communication skills to get you the interest you need for something you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Before you let things get to you and say something you shouldn't, consider what's really happened. You will come up with a solution that won't hurt anyone, including you. Rely on someone with experience to answer any questions concerning love situations. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your magnetism will keep everyone interested in what you are going to do next. Travel to see people first hand if you want to make the very best impression. Get serious about what you want to do and you will find your way to the top. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll make a great impression. Your perfectionism will be appreciated and your talents drawn upon in order to get things done. You can make some financial changes that will better suit your needs. ✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have to follow your heart not what someone else wants you to do. Think about a partnership that will enhance your reputation in an industry that you want to be part of. Don't give up your goals because of someone else's possessiveness. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can talk all you want and even make some headway with business projects. However, when it comes to personal matters, listen for now and refrain from making a move or a decision. A problem with competition will need immediate attention. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A money matter may be costly. Problems with a lover or someone who wants you to pay upfront for something questionable must be dealt with before you can relax. Take care of matters with class, dignity and finesse. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Pay close attention to legal and financial matters. Someone may try to talk you out of something you should be taking part in. A problem with a neighbor or friend may preoccupy your mind, causing you to miss out on something good. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Let someone you've relied on in the past take over if you don't have it in you to complete what you started. Regroup and rethink your plans. You may have chosen the wrong direction, so consider making some alterations. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look to the future with optimism. You should be able to use some of the people you've worked with in the past to get something off the ground now. An interesting partnership can be formed but be prepared to make some concessions. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You aren't afraid to voice your opinion. You are an advocate of truth and honesty. You have strong beliefs and stick to your principles no matter what.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | 1 | | | | 4 | 9 |
| | 1 | | | | | 3 | | |
| 3 | | | | | 7 | | | |
| 2 | | | | | 4 | | | |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | | | 5 | 6 | 8 | |
| 4 | | | 8 | | 9 | | | 2 |
| 1 | | | 5 | | 2 | | | 7 |
| 5 | | | 3 | | 6 | | | 1 |
| | 4 | 7 | | | | 2 | 5 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/12

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | E | S | T | S | E | U | G | S | E | I | D | U | T | S |
| T | T | S | P | D | U | E | M | U | T | S | O | C | G | R |
| A | A | A | H | E | E | N | E | L | D | A | O | Y | R | E |
| U | C | R | U | P | E | G | M | D | E | L | D | L | A | T |
| D | I | C | E | D | A | C | R | U | L | S | T | I | D | S |
| A | F | O | I | T | A | R | H | E | L | E | S | M | U | A |
| R | I | N | S | P | S | R | G | E | E | A | I | A | A | M |
| G | T | V | E | N | U | E | G | O | S | N | L | F | T | A |
| R | R | O | S | E | M | S | M | T | T | S | I | N | I | J |
| E | E | C | C | E | D | U | A | E | S | O | W | L | O | O |
| D | C | A | H | N | M | F | R | E | S | O | H | L | N | R |
| N | M | T | E | O | F | A | R | O | G | Ⓝ | P | P | M | I |
| U | C | I | S | U | M | D | N | A | C | Ⓐ | M | P | U | S |
| P | R | O | C | E | S | S | I | O | N | Ⓔ | T | O | V | E |
| F | T | N | E | I | P | I | C | E | R | Ⓓ | D | O | O | H |

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Alumnus, Campus, Certificate, College, Convocation, Costume, Dean, Decorum, Degree, Dress, Family, Field, Friends, Gown, Graduation, Guests, Hood, Line, List, Mace, Major, Masters, Music, Names, Photographs, Postgraduate, Procession, Recipient, Rise, Semester, Speeches, Stadium, Staff, Stage, Studies, Tassel, Theme, Undergraduate, Venue, Vote

**Yesterday's Answer: Tracking**

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WHATZIT Solution:
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. WILLLAM S, AGULTO and CANDELARIA Y. AGULTO, Defendants. | ) ) ) ) ) ) | Civil Action No.-08-0080-ev **AMENDED SUMMONS** |

**TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT WILLIAM S. AGULTO AND CANDELARIA K. AGULTO**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR** by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.** In case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 25th day of March, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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## WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**"abracadabra"**

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**Find today's solution in this section**

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**The position will be based at Saipan Terminal in Saipan. Remuneration will commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.**

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Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
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| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
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| • 3-Liner with picture | $45 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $55 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

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### REFUNDS

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### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# Nowitzki scores 44 as Mavs beat Nuggets

**DALLAS** (AP)—So much for the idea that the Dallas Mavericks would be devastated by the way Game 3 ended. Dirk Nowitzki wasn't about to let them get swept.

Nowitzki scored 19 of his 44 points in the fourth quarter, including a high-arching shot with 1:05 left that put the Mavericks ahead for good on their way to a 119-117 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night, extending this second-round series and providing it with a lot more excitement.

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) reacts against the Denver Nuggets in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal, Monday, May 11, 2009, in Dallas.

"We're not done yet," Nowitzki said. "We played for one more chance."

Carmelo Anthony scored a career playoff-best 41 points and hit a 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left from nearly the exact spot as his winning basket in the previous game, only this time it left Denver a point shy of a tie.

Dallas' Jason Terry made a free throw with 1.1 seconds left, then missed another—perhaps intentionally—because Anthony got the rebound but didn't have a timeout left to call or enough time to get off a 90-foot heave.

The buzzer sounded and confetti fell as the teams left the court, knowing they will meet again Wednesday night in Denver. The scene was a little calmer than after the end of Game 3, although it may also wind up getting reviewed by the league office because Denver's Kenyon Martin clearly exchanged words with Dallas owner Mark Cuban.

This game had all the intensity of a Game 7, with seven technical fouls and multiple flagrants. There were video reviews and concerns for the safety of Anthony's wife and Martin's mom, all of it started by the wacky Game 3 finish, then stoked by a silly elbow from Anthony early in the second quarter.

Denver led by 14 and was scoring at will when Anthony tangled arms with Dallas' Antoine Wright. It was like an alarm clock for the drowsy crowd of 20,523—and for the Mavericks, who all season have been at their best immediately after hitting rock bottom. It was a quality coach Rick Carlisle expected to see Monday night, even if it showed up more than a quarter late.

After the tussle between Anthony and Wright—the main combatants of the Game 3 finish, which the league admitted was botched by officials—Dallas kept getting close, and even tied it three times, but never went in front until Nowitzki's rainbow over Martin that hit nothing but net.

Martin lost the ball on offense, leading to a pair of free throws by Dallas' Josh Howard. Anthony countered with two foul shots of his own with 30 seconds left.

The Mavericks went back to Nowitzki near the top of the key, guarded by Martin. The big German drew a foul and Martin knew it was his sixth; he went straight to the bench and took a seat, watching Nowitzki sink two more free throws with 8.3 seconds remaining.

Then Anthony kept alive hopes of another miracle finish for Denver, somehow escaping the defense enough to make the 3.

But the Nuggets were out tricks. Unable to steal the ball from Terry, they fouled him instead, but it was too late. Denver wasn't going to pull off the first four-game sweep in franchise history and Dallas avoided getting swept for the first time in a seven-game series.

"We've still got our hands full," Nowitzki said. "We'll let it all rip again and see what happens."

Howard had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Jason Kidd added 13 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Terry scored 12 points, Brandon Bass had 11 and J.J. Barea scored 10.

Chauncey Billups had 24 points and seven assists, and J.R. Smith had 19 points, including two terrific baskets with the shot clock about to expire in the fourth quarter. Dahntay Jones scored 10 and Martin had only two points and two rebounds in 33 minutes.

## Cavaliers 84, Hawks 74

At Atlanta, LeBron James didn't come close to matching his performance in Game 3.

He did enough to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to another playoff sweep— and get in a few jabs at the Atlanta fans.

James scored 27 points and had the last word with a heckling fan at courtside as the Cavaliers finished off the Hawks 84-74 Monday night to win the second-round series in four straight.

Delonte West and Mo Williams showed Cleveland isn't just a one-man team, hitting huge shots down the stretch as the Cavaliers managed to extend their NBA-record streak of double-digit playoff wins to eight in a row.

Cleveland, which also swept Detroit in the opening round, will face either Boston or Orlando in the Eastern Conference finals.

No matter the opponent, the Cavaliers will be a lot more rested. The Celtics-Magic series is tied 2-2 and will last at least through Thursday, while the top seed heads back to Ohio to relax for a few days before opening the next round at home.

After scoring 47 points in Game 3, James struggled with his jumper in this one. Still, he came through with the Cavaliers facing their first serious challenge of the playoffs.

With the Cavaliers leading by just four, 66-62, James hit a towering 3-pointer with 6 1/2 minutes to go, lingering at the arc to pose with his right hand extended toward the arena roof.

The Hawks were still hanging around, trailing 76-72, when James drove right past Zaza Pachulia and laid it in despite getting hacked. He tacked on the free throw to complete the three-point play with 2:03 remaining.

Finally, after drawing the usual double-team, James dished off to an open Williams, who sank the clinching 3-pointer with 52 seconds left. The Hawks called timeout, their only way to extend the season, but James hovered near the middle of the court, just staring at the fan in the garish green shirt and orange pants who'd been riding him all game.

James made only 9 of 22 from the field, but showed his all-around brilliance with eight rebounds and eight assists. Plus, he had some help from his teammates this time, after carrying the Cavaliers almost single-handedly in Game 3.

West scored 21 points, while Williams made four 3-pointers to account for his 12 points. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Anderson Varejao seemed to get his hand on every miss, picking up seven of his 11 rebounds at the offensive end to contribute heavily to Cleveland 15 second-change points.

# Vikings president: We're still interested in Favre

**MARSHALL, Minn.** (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings have spoken: Yes, they're interested in Brett Favre. The Vikings broke their silence Monday, with president Mark Wilf saying the team is considering the supposedly retired star.

"He's a Hall of Fame quarterback. He's a great competitor," Wilf said. "Ultimately, you'll have to ask Brett what his plans are, but sure there's interest in Brett Favre. But again, it's part of a process we have in general with any of our players. We're always looking to make our team better."

Several conflicting and contradictory media reports swirled last week around the possibility of Favre, who retired for the second time at the end of last season, returning to play for the Vikings.

Neither Favre nor the Vikings commented last week, which only added more confusion to the situation.

Favre was released by the New York Jets on April 28 and issued a statement that said, "At this time, I am retired and have no intention of returning to football."

He hasn't been heard from since.

"That type of decision is up to Brett Favre, and I'll leave it to Brett Favre to give you that answer," Wilf said.

His agent, Bus Cook, has said that Favre remains retired to his knowledge. Cook did not immediately return a phone message from The Associated Press on Monday.

Wilf, who along with brother Zygi purchased the team in 2005, spoke about Favre during a previously scheduled community visit. It was the first question asked by a fan during a panel discussion between Wilf and linebackers Chad Greenway and Ben Leber as part of a "You Made the Team" luncheon with the Marshall Chamber of Commerce.

After Greenway gave a politically correct answer, Wilf jumped in to defend the current stable of quarterbacks—incumbent Tarvaris Jackson, newcomer Sage Rosenfels and third-stringer John David Booty.

"With Sage and Tarvaris and John David, we're pleased with the quarterbacks we have," Wilf said. "Let's not let that get forgotten here. And we just feel as a whole as a roster, we're trying to improve every day. We feel we've made a lot of steps to improve off an NFC North division win and we're ready to take the next step and to go all the way."

It's a little bit of deja vu for the Vikings. Last year, Favre renounced his retirement from the Packers and, after being told Green Bay was going with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, it was believed that Favre wanted to play for the NFC North rival Vikings.

After a messy divorce with Green Bay, Favre was shipped to the Jets, where he threw 22 touchdown passes and 22 interceptions for a team that finished 1-4 to miss the playoffs.

The Vikings won the division without him, but have been unsettled at the sport's most important position for the past three-plus years. Quarterback continues to be viewed as one of the team's few weak spots on an otherwise talent-laden roster.

"Last year it didn't become a distraction and we kind of went through the same thing during training camp, which is right at the peak time," Greenway said. "For us, it's like we battled through that, were NFC North champs from last year and it obviously didn't affect us. We got off to a relatively good start so I don't think that had any type of effect."

But with Favre, retirement has become an annual ordeal. He was released by the Jets on April 28 and now is free to sign with the Vikings if he is healthy enough and still has the desire to play.

"He's retired a couple of times so you wonder where his loyalties lie," Greenway said. "For us, we're moving forward with what we've got here. We have a team that can obviously win at a high level and we have a team that, moving forward, we think can really compete for an NFC North title again and get to the championship game and hopefully further.

"As good as something may sound, we have a great team to play with right now and there is no sense in looking outside of what we have within our 53 (man roster)."

# Big Unit gets 298th win, Giants beat Nationals

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Randy Johnson struck out nine in his 298th career victory, and Randy Winn had three hits and scored three runs in the San Francisco Giants' 11-7 win over the Washington Nationals on Monday night.

Ryan Zimmerman extended his hitting streak to 29 games and went 4 for 5 with two homers for the Nationals, including a three-run shot in the ninth.

Zimmerman also hit a solo shot in the sixth off the 6-foot-10 Johnson (3-3), who yielded eight hits and four runs while outdueling 6-foot-9 Daniel Cabrera in the tallest pitching matchup in baseball history.

Travis Ishikawa had three hits and drove in two runs for the Giants, who produced their biggest run total of the season in their 14th victory in 20 games.

Johnson, San Francisco's 45-year-old left-hander, threw five strong innings before fading in the sixth after a long, chilly stroll around the basepaths while the Giants drew five consecutive walks and scored five unearned runs in their eighth straight victory over Washington.

The Giants had given Johnson more than one run of support just once this season before pounding Cabrera (0-4) for their fourth victory in five games. Cabrera gave up eight hits and six walks, including four straight free passes to close his 12th straight start without a victory.

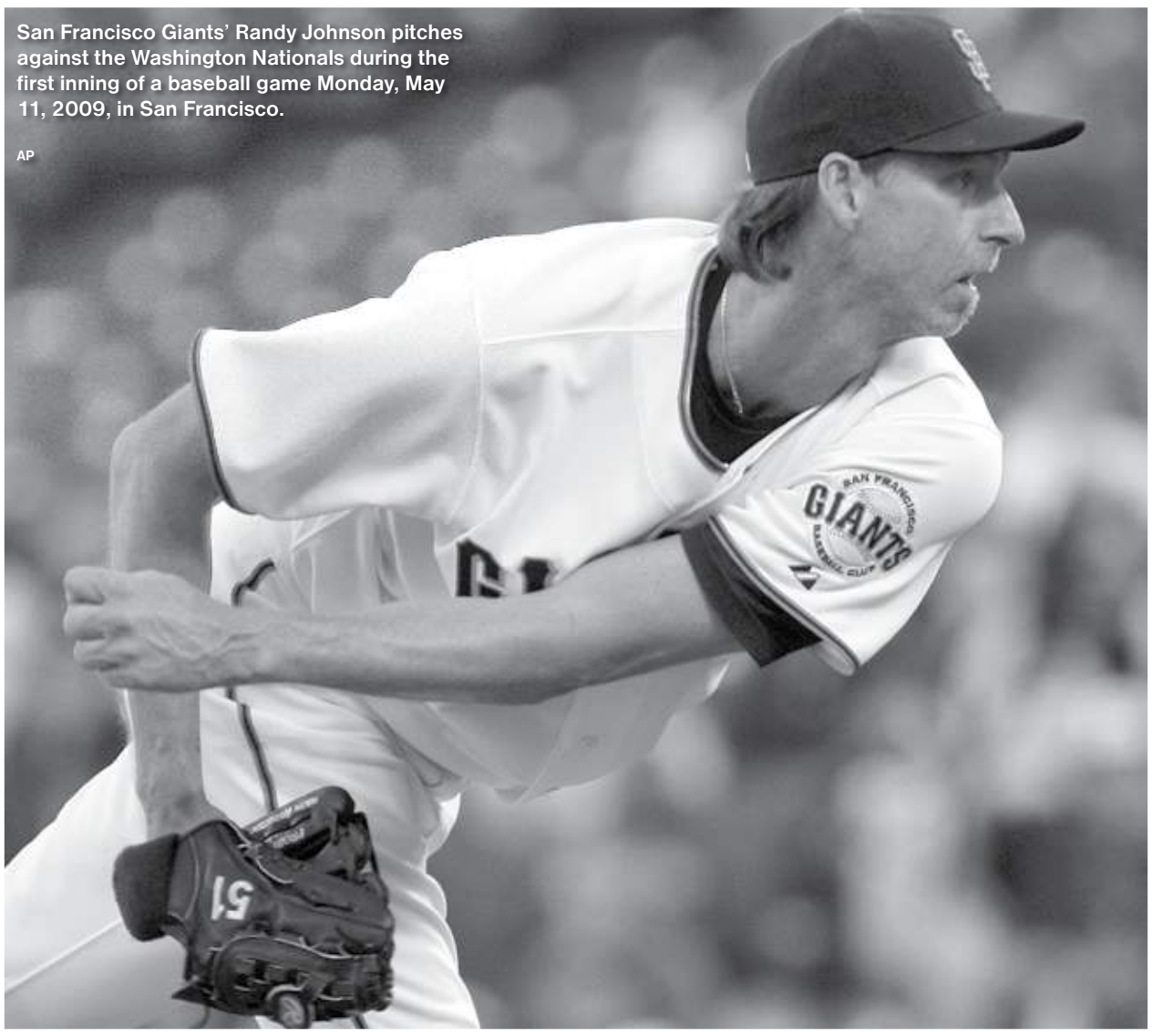
At least Zimmerman wasted no time extending the longest hitting streak in the Nationals' brief history and the longest by a third baseman in a quarter-century when he slapped a first-inning single. With his ninth-inning shot off the tin covering on the right-field arcade, Zimmerman improved to 48 for 126 (.381) since the streak began.

Josh Willingham and Ronnie Belliard hit solo homers for Washington, which has the majors' worst record at 10-20.

After Zimmerman's two-out homer in the ninth off reliever Osiris Matos, Washington got two more runners on, forcing the Giants to use closer Brian Wilson. He struck out Willingham on three pitches for his eighth save in 10 opportunities.

The Big Unit and the towering Cabrera measure a combined 163 inches—one more than the combined heights of Cabrera and Mark Hendrickson on Sept. 1, 2004, in the previous record-holding matchup, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The Giants rallied in the fifth because Willingham terribly misjudged Fred Lewis' two-out fly to left. The ball landed behind Willingham as he ran forward with his glove raised, allowing Pablo Sandoval and Winn to score.



San Francisco Giants' Randy Johnson pitches against the Washington Nationals during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, May 11, 2009, in San Francisco.

AP

Cabrera immediately fell apart, issuing four straight walks, one intentional. Reliever Logan Kensing then walked Sandoval to put the Giants up 8-2.

### Braves 8, Mets 3

At New York, Derek Lowe outlasted Johan Santana in a matchup of aces and Atlanta ended New York's seven-game winning streak.

Shortstop Jose Reyes' two-out error in the seventh inning led to four runs, saddling Santana (4-2) with his second loss this season when he did not allow an earned run.

Matt Diaz's(notes) two-run single off Pedro Feliciano(notes) snapped a 1-1 tie in the seventh, and Casey Kotchman(notes) followed with another two-run single that made it 5-1.

Lowe (5-1) gave up two runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings, winning his fourth straight start.

The Braves have won five of six on an eight-game road trip against the three teams ahead of them in the NL East.

Santana was charged with two unearned runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings. He lowered his NL-best ERA to 0.78 through seven starts, three of which New York has lost.

### Reds 13, Diamondbacks 5

At Phoenix, Willy Taveras matched a career high with five hits, and Adam Rosales had a homer and two doubles for Cincinnati.

Taveras, who had four singles and a double, scored four runs and drove in two. He had five hits on April 25, 2007, at the New York Mets.

Bronson Arroyo(notes) (5-2) allowed five runs and 10 hits in seven innings, striking out five.

The Reds jumped on Arizona starter Jon Garland(notes) (3-2) early, scoring one run in the first, three in the third and three in the fourth.

Justin Upton's(notes) two-run homer stretched his hitting streak to 18 games and brought Arizona within 4-2, but hitter Laynce Nix(notes) led off the fourth with a homer and three pitches later, Rosales made it 6-2.

Garland went 3 2-3 innings, allowing seven runs and 10 hits.

Arizona lost for the third time in four games under new manager A.J. Hinch.

### Indians 9, White Sox 4

At Cleveland, Carl Pavano threw strikes and his Cleveland Indians teammates struck quickly at the plate.

Pavano won his third straight start and the Indians scored in the first inning for the first time this month as they defeated the Chicago White Sox to snap a four-game losing streak.

"It finally felt like a real baseball game," said Cleveland third baseman Mark DeRosa. "Any win right now is big."

Pavano (3-3) allowed four runs and 10 hits over 6 1-3 innings in his first appearance against the White Sox in nearly five years. The right-hander didn't issue a walk and struck out three.

"He controlled the game and it was good to see," Indians manager Eric Wedge said of Pavano, who threw 67 of 87 pitches for strikes.

Shin-Soo Choo and Jhonny Peralta drove in three runs apiece for Cleveland, which totaled 13 hits and scored three more runs than it did during its four-game slide.

Chicago lost for the seventh time in nine games as Gavin Floyd (2-3) gave up eight runs and 11 hits over five innings. The right-hander is 0-2 with a 9.73 ERA in four starts since April 19.

## Report: Ramirez had elevated testosterone level

**BRISTOL, Conn.** (AP)—Manny Ramirez's positive urine test showed an elevated testosterone level, and a lab used a test to determine whether the hormone was naturally produced to build evidence against him, ESPN.com reported Monday.

Baseball asked the World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Montreal to perform a carbon isotope ratio test, which determines whether testosterone is natural or synthetic, the Web site reported. MLB then asked Ramirez to produce medical records, as required under the drug agreement.

Ramirez's test had a testosterone-epitestosterone ratio between 4:1 and 10:1, ESPN.com reported. Typically, a person naturally produces the hormones at a ratio of 1:1; tests of 4:1 or greater are flagged.

Ramirez's side was prepared to argue to an arbitrator that the synthetic testosterone was caused by the Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder taking the steroids precursor DHEA, ESPN.com and the Union-Tribune in San Diego reported Saturday. DHEA is not banned by MLB.

A possible appeal was dropped before a scheduled Wednesday meeting after the medical records turned over included a prescription for the fertility drug HCG, or human chorionic gonadotrophin, ESPN.com reported. Some athletes who have used steroids have taken HCG to help restart natural testosterone production. Because HCG is banned by baseball, the sport based Ramirez's suspension on the use of that drug.

Ramirez was banned for 50 games Thursday. Barring postponements, he's eligible to return July 3.

## MLB BRIEFS

### Clemens scheduled for radio interview on Tuesday

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Roger Clemens was scheduled for an ESPN Radio interview on Tuesday, the publication date of an unflattering book about the seven-time Cy Young Award winner. "American Icon: The Fall of Roger Clemens and the Rise of Steroids in America's Pastime" by four New York Daily News reporters covers the pitcher's alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs, charges he has repeatedly denied. "He was asked to do it," Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said Monday about the interview. "That would be my guess as to what the impetus for it is, but I'm not sure. There's nothing new about the case that would spark it." Clemens is under investigation by a federal grand jury in Washington that is trying to determine whether he lied when he told a congressional committee last year that he had not used illegal performance-enhancing drugs. He also has sued his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, who told baseball investigator George Mitchell that he had injected Clemens with drugs.

### Hamilton ready to rejoin Rangers against Seattle

**ROUND ROCK, Texas** (AP)—Josh Hamilton is ready to rejoin the Texas Rangers. The All-Star center fielder said his left rib cage muscles "felt good" after his final game Monday on a rehabilitation assignment. He will return to Arlington for evaluation Tuesday, when he's eligible to return from the disabled list for the opener of a three-game series against Seattle. Hamilton played all nine innings in center and was 1 for 3 with a double and two walks in Triple-A Oklahoma's 6-5 loss to Round Rock. He went 2 for 5 with three walks in two games with the RedHawks. Last year's AL RBI leader is hitting .242 with two runs and 10 RBIs in 18 games with the Rangers. He hurt his ribs crashing into an outfield wall April 21 in Toronto.

### Yanks to pay NYC $11.5M for memorabilia rights

**NEW YORK** (AP)—New York City will receive $11.5 million from the Yankees in exchange for giving the team rights to sell off seats, signs and other memorabilia from their old ballpark. After two homestands at the new Yankee Stadium dominated by home runs and empty seats near the field, the Yankees and Steiner Collectibles scheduled a news conference for Tuesday to announce memorabilia sales and prices for the original Yankee Stadium, including sod and dirt plus bricks from Monument Park. "The city's agreement with the Yankees will generate much-needed revenue for the city, and offer fans a chance to own some of the famed Yankee Stadium history," New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement Monday. The Mets sold seats from Shea Stadium at $869 per pair, and the Yankees were expected to charge substantially more. The city said it has earned $3.5 million from the sale of Shea Stadium memorabilia, under which it gets 70 percent of revenue after sale costs and the Mets receive 30 percent. Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, a constant critic of the Yankees, disapproved of the agreement. "The value of the relics of Yankee Stadium is clearly much more than $11.5 million," he said in a statement. "After a yearlong delay which cost the people of the Bronx access to their parkland, the deal that has apparently been struck is again an economic victory for the Yankees and an economic defeat to the taxpayers. There is no dispute that the people of the City owned the old Yankee Stadium, and there is no reason to cap their economic gain at $11.5 million. We also believe an appraisal was required before the deal could be struck, and it is not clear that any such appraisal was done."

# District meet set for next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball will host the 2009 District Tournament next month and will have competitions only in the Major and Junior divisions.

The meet will run from June 5 to 7 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield and at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with teams from Rota and Tinian joining Saipan Major and Junior All-Stars. Selections for the two Saipan teams will be made after the SLLB season.

Tony Rogolifoi is the tournament director for the Major's district meet, while Ben Taitano will handle the event for Juniors.

The winner in the district meet will represent CNMI in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament for Majors in Chinese-Taipei from July 5 to 12. The regional meet for the Juniors will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from June 23 to 28.

CNMI District Administrator James Ada said since Tinian and Rota do not have teams in Big and Senior Leagues, Saipan will automatically send its All-Star Teams in the regionals. Indonesia will also host the regional meet for Senior and Big League divisions.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Jets runner slides to third base safely during their game against the Twins in the Major division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield early this month. From June 5 to 7, Saipan will be hosting the district meet for Majors and Juniors.

Winners of the regional tournaments will advance to the World Series.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars made it to last year's World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

Meanwhile, SLLB held two make-up games Sunday with the Twins and Hustlers whipping separates foes.

The Twins downed IT&E, 14-4, to improve to a 3-9 record, while the Hustlers took the temporary lead with their 11-2 slate after shutting out the JPO Enforcers, 10-0.

After giving up three runs at the bottom of the first, the Twins defense and starting pitcher Mel Sakisat allowed IT&E to only one hit in the last five innings.

Sakisat pitched in five innings, struck out 10, walked two, and had one hit by pitch. Roke Tenorio did a great relief job at the top of the sixth, striking out IT&E's first three batters.

IT&E's only run in the last five innings came in the third inning off a Twins error.

The Twins had fewer problems on offense with Tenorio and Sakisat both going 4-for-5 at the plate and combining for seven runs.

In the other make-up game, Cody Kaipat pitched for the Hustlers in no relief and flirted with a no-hitter to lift his team to their 11th win.

Kaipat struck out seven, allowed only one hit, and walked two in four innings.

No Enforcers runner went past first base, dropping the team to a 2-10 record.

Cody, brother Koby, and Frank Lizama all hit 2-for-2 at the plate for the Hustlers and all three made two runs each. Frank also had two RBIs. J.J. Lizama, Ray Saralu, Dean Santos, and A.J. Deleon Guerrero had one run apiece for the Hustlers.

# Back-to-back wins for The Ghost

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu won his second consecutive Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday after beating Chester Cuento in the finals.

Espiritu, who downed Cuento in the semifinals to gain twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round, capitalized on his opponent's miscue on his second shot as the islands' top cue artist proceeded to run the table to win the $60 first place purse.

Cuento, who reached the finals after outlasting Zheng Jian Qing in the loser's bracket finals, settled for the $30 runner-up money with Zheng taking home $10.

Espiritu and Cuenco had auspicious starts to the competition with the former taking out Don Antonio and the latter beating Eric Caisip.

In the next round, Espiritu defeated Chester Hamoy and Cuento drubbed Rolly Villanueva to arrange a showdown for the first finals ticket and all-important twice-to-beat advantage in the championship.

Cuento got the break, but his cue ball flew off the table, giving Espiritu a ball-in-hand situation which he made the most of by running the table.

Cuento was relegated to the loser's bracket finals but had to wait for his opponent, as Zheng, Antonio, Villanueva, Juancho Mendoza, Mark Butac, Luis Fajardo, and Eric Caisip fought it out in the elimination round.

In the end, Zheng beat out Caisip to arrange a loser's bracket finale against Cuento. Zheng was in control early but missed on his attempt at the 8-ball. Cuento finished off his two remaining balls before pocketing the 8-ball to advance opposite Espiritu in the finals.

Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is $10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Top Pool Bar manager Zheng Jian Qing at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament winner Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu is flanked by runners-up Chster Cuento, right, and Zheng Jian Qing after last Saturday's competition.

## THREE

From Page 28

UMESSUPUOUT prevailed over Plum Smugglers and MHS Bobais to keep its record clean, too.

Dan Westphal was at the forefront of UMESSUPUOUT's defense on both wins, while Melody Matson and Scott Eck took care of business on the offensive end.

Grace Christian Academy, one of the three high school teams in the league, split its first two games. After losing their debut to Red Angry Dragon, the GCA Eagles redeemed themselves against MHS Bobais.

Brandon Chargualaf and Keith Sablan's strong hits and Philnea Atalig's good passing lifted GCA to a sweep against MHS Bobais' Yihao Liang, Mildred Kintol, and Jeff Bacani.

MHS Bobais dropped to a 0-2 start, while sister team MHS One Heart also lost its debut against We're Here last Wednesday. We're Here joined four other teams (Hoof Hearted, South Beach, GCA, and Angry Red Dragon) with identical 1-1 records.

Games in this year's four-person league are played every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The league has a round-robin format in the regular season with the top eight teams advancing to the playoffs, which will be a single-elimination affair.

## 8 TEAMS

From Page 28

the B division finals against the duo of Elma Labuson and Ana Rose Omori.

Others tandems that joined the B division competition were NMBF president Shirley Kim and Emily Vargas, Malou Malasarte and Cheng Saturno, and Ingrid Sanchez and Rose Lazaro.

New NMBF member Riza Yutuc had a rousing debut, as she and Lupe Sabino bested two other teams in the C division. Malou Mendoza and Ruby Gozon finished second after outclassing the duo of Nimfa Santos and Merlie Tolentino.

The top finishers in each division received cash and special prizes, while other participants went home with raffle prizes, donated by Kim.

This was the second straight year that NMBF held a tournament in celebration of Mother's Day.

"This is our way of honoring our members, who still find time to play and enjoy the sport of badminton while fulfilling their responsibilities as mothers. The tournament also aims to promote camaraderie among members," said Kim, who thanked Hapi Gabriel for organizing the event.

After the IT&E doubles event and the Mother's Day tournament, NMBF will be holding two more competitions this year.

"We may have one mixed tournament and the traditional team tournament at the end of the year," Kim said.

The NMBF president added they are also planning to hold clinics.

## FIFTH

From Page 28

zie. The May runner-up strung together scores of 173, 137, 117, and 168 to finish with 595 pinfalls, or a 148.75 average.

Nikko Gutierrez and Troy Verdaguer also took part in the tournament, closing in with a 547 (136.75) and 539 (134.75), respectively.

In the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes, veteran keglers Simon Manacop and Gloria Omechalang won their first monthly titles of the year.

Manacop starred in the men's roll-off after putting together a four-game series of 916, which was good for a 229 per game average, in the competition's first day last Sunday.

The Department of Public Safety officer started out with a 210 but followed that up with a pedestrian 185. Manacop then bounced back with a 242 and 279 in the final two games then watched as all comers failed to reach his total in Day 2 last Monday.

Richard Leong and Kitz Barja finished second and third with pinfall totals of 854 (213.5) and 827 (206.75), respectively. Both bowled Monday.

Manacop won $90 and a case of Waioka Tuna from MBI, while Leong and Barja settled for the $30 and $25 runner-up purses. Barja, who is the general manager of MBI, curiously also won a case of tuna.

Omechalang, for her part, pulled the rug from under first day leader Emi Williams by knocking down 702 pinfalls in Day 2.

She started slow with totals of 157 and 153 in the first two games before catching fire in the final two with scores of 189 and 203 en route to averaging 175.5.

Williams settled for second place with her four-game total of 699 and 174.75 average, while Gina Sablan came in third following a 685 total and 171.25 norm.

Omechalang earned $65 for her victory, plus a case of Waioka Tuna from MBI, while Williams and Sablan came away with $30 and 20, respectively. Williams also received a case of Waioka Tuna for topping Day 1.

## FALCONS

From Page 28

centerfield drove him to home plate. Henry Iguel and Jess Taitano were beaten to second and third base in the ensuing plays, ending the Falcons' rally.

The Tigers were done after only three innings at the bottom of the eight, while the Falcons failed to increase their lead at the top of the last inning, as the best they could do was have Pangelinan at third base.

At the bottom of the third, catcher Mike Muna gave the Tigers a good start with his single, but was later beaten to second base. The Tigers were called for the second out with shortstop Reno Celis flying out to second base. Falcons pitcher Pete Teigita walked third batter Dave Kapileo, keeping the Tigers' hopes alive. But not for long, as designated hitter Manny Tenorio was beaten to first.

Kapileo was perfect at the plate for the Falcons, hitting 5-for-5. He had one RBI and scored three runs. Pangelinan recorded three runs and was 4-for-5 at the plate.

Justin Reyes and Dave Kapileo both went 3-for-5 for the Tigers with the former making three runs and the latter adding one. Celis scored the Tigers' two other runs.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Toronto | 22 | 12 | .647 | - |
| Boston | 20 | 12 | .625 | 1 |
| New York | 15 | 16 | .484 | 5 1/2 |
| Tampa Bay | 15 | 18 | .455 | 6 1/2 |
| Baltimore | 13 | 19 | .406 | 8 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 17 | 13 | .567 | - |
| Kansas City | 18 | 14 | .563 | - |
| Minnesota | 15 | 17 | .469 | 3 |
| Chicago | 14 | 16 | .467 | 3 |
| Cleveland | 12 | 21 | .364 | 6 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texas | 17 | 14 | .548 | - |
| Los Angeles | 16 | 14 | .533 | 1/2 |
| Seattle | 15 | 16 | .484 | 2 |
| Oakland | 11 | 18 | .379 | 5 |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 17 | 14 | .548 | - |
| Florida | 17 | 15 | .531 | 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 15 | 14 | .517 | 1 |
| Atlanta | 16 | 16 | .500 | 1 1/2 |
| Washington | 10 | 20 | .333 | 6 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Louis | 20 | 12 | .625 | - |
| Cincinnati | 18 | 14 | .563 | 2 |
| Milwaukee | 18 | 14 | .563 | 2 |
| Chicago | 17 | 14 | .548 | 2 1/2 |
| Houston | 14 | 17 | .452 | 5 1/2 |
| Pittsburgh | 12 | 19 | .387 | 7 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 22 | 11 | .667 | - |
| San Francisco | 17 | 14 | .548 | 4 |
| San Diego | 13 | 19 | .406 | 8 1/2 |
| Colorado | 12 | 18 | .400 | 8 1/2 |
| Arizona | 13 | 20 | .394 | 9 |

**Yesterday's Games**

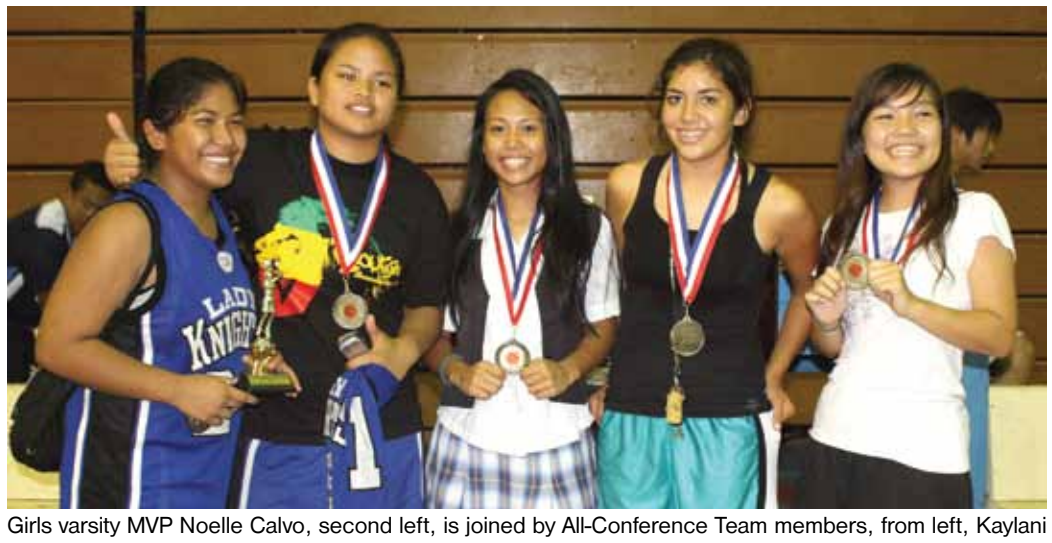
Atlanta 8, N.Y. Mets 3
Cincinnati 13, Arizona 5
San Francisco 11, Washington 7
Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 4

By The Associated Press

# 2009 COPSA Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Saipan International School boys varsity team pose for a group photo after beating Grace Christian Academy in a title game, 41-31, in the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Girls varsity MVP Noelle Calvo, second left, is joined by All-Conference Team members, from left, Kaylani Lebria (representing sister Nicole), GCA's Hannah Cabrera, SIS' Annie Camacho, and Marianas Baptist Academy's Jennifer Sakamoto.

Mt. Carmel School players and supporters celebrate their finals win against Saipan International School in the girls varsity division.

Three members of Calvary Christian Academy Sharks receive their team's Sportsmanship Award.

Cheerful members of GCA Eagles receive their runner-up trophy.

Two SIS players hustle for the ball during their title game against MCS.

Grace Christian Academy and league MVP Dae Woon Jeon pulls up for a shot against SIS' Lucas Knecht, right, and Miguel Brostom.

Saipan International School's Arnold Lee drives against two GCA defenders.

Saipan International School's Yi Shang Wang tries to find room against the tight defense of GCA's Dae Min Jeon.

League MVP Noelle Calvo dribbles against SIS' Maya Oestreich during their title game.

**Nowitzki scores 44 as Mavs beat Nuggets**

So much for the idea that the Dallas Mavericks would be devastated by the way Game 3 ended. Dirk Nowitzki wasn't about to let them get swept. **24**

Saipan Tribune
# Sports

**District meet set for next month**

Saipan Little League Baseball will host the 2009 District Tournament next month and will have competitions only in the Major and Junior divisions. **26**

# Three unbeaten in beach V-ball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hits for Brains led the list of undefeated teams in the Miller Lite/Monster 4-Person Beach Volleyball League 2009 after Week 1 of competition on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

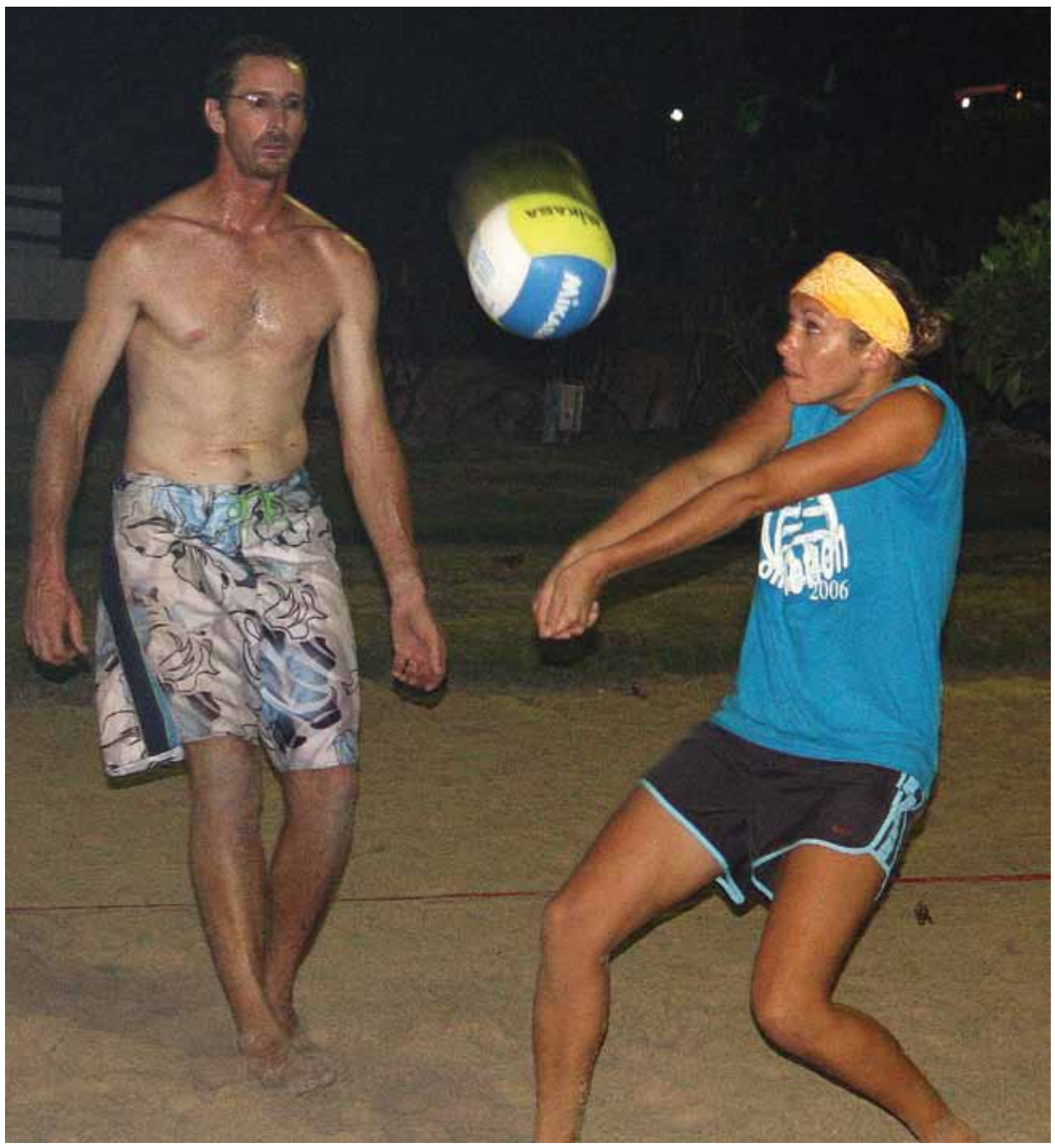
The Rob Jordan-led squad is unbeaten in two games, joining Numa Numa and UMESSUPUOUT in the early lead in the 12-team field.

Hits For Brains debuted with a 21-9, 21-16, 19-17 victory over Angry Red Dragon on May 5 and made it 2-0 after topping Plum Smugglers last Thursday.

According to Dale Roberts, one of coordinators of the league, Hits for Brains was unbeaten in six sets in those two games, as Andreas Buitrago and Lindsay Sosovec played solid defense to complement Larry Sharry's big kills on the net.

Also perfect after two games, winning five of six sets was Numa Numa. The Typhoon Saito-anchored squad edged Hoof Hearted in its debut, 21-14, 21-16, 10-15 during the league's opening on May 5, and then tripped South Beach last Thursday.

*See THREE on Page 26*



Melody Matson of UMESSUPUOUT returns the ball while teammate Scott Eck looks on during their debut game in the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster 4-Person Beach Volleyball League against Plum Smugglers last week at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Falcons slip past Tigers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tanapag Falcons escaped the Tigers' claw, pulling off an 8-6 win in their game in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons leaned on a three-run top of the eighth to work their way back from a 5-6 deficit and played tough defense in three successive innings to secure the win

The Bob O'Conner Tigers scored two runs apiece in the first and third inning and one each in the fourth and sixth for a 6-5 lead.

Jason Hayes, who relieved Ed Santos in the fourth inning, struck out the first two batters at the bottom of the seventh and third batter B.J. Sablan was beaten to first, helping the Tigers keep the lead for the last time.

J.R. Suel led off for the Falcons at the top of the eighth, walked, advanced to second and third on Tigers' errors, and reached home plate on a Nunu Kapileo single.

Suel's run tied the game at 6-all and designated hitter Mike Pangelinan broke the deadlock, scoring on another Tigers' error. Kapileo later made it 8-6, as Lawrence Dikito's sacrifice fly to

*See FALCONS on Page 26*

# 8 teams join 'Hot Mommas' badminton meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Federation joined the rest of the world in celebrating Mother's Day by hosting a one-day tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

Dubbed "Hot Mommas" Badminton Doubles Tournament, the event took place two days before Mother's Day and drew eight teams, which were grouped into two divisions. Five pairs competed in the B division, while the three others participated in the C division.

Marylyn Montano, who with partner Cheng Saturno finished second in last month's 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament, had a different teammate in Lucelle Lampera. The new partnership produced a victory in

*See 8 TEAMS on Page 26*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the NMBF's "Hot Mommas" Badminton Doubles Tournament pose for a group photo after the games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

# Fifth in a row for Raphael, Simon and Gloria also win

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Another Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes. Another victory for bowling wunderkind Raphael Zapanta.

The Saipan Southern High School student followed up wins in the January, February, March, and April editions of the monthly roll-off by winning anew in the May Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.

The 15-year-old finished with a four-game total of 756 after rolls of 182, 194, 192, and 188, good for an average of 189, and a sweep so far of the 2009 youth tournaments.

Zapanta won $15 and a case of Juicy Juice from Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

One-hundred-sixty-one pins off Zapanta's pace was Marion McKen-

*See FIFTH on Page 26*

Omechalang

Zapanta

Manacop